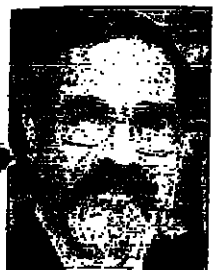


حزب من الاحل



JONATHAN SACKS

Moral lessons of the Bulger case

Reflections on violent society, page 20



GO PLACES

Another holiday offer with 20% off

Travel token, page 16



MARY ANN SIEGHART

The death of the dependent society

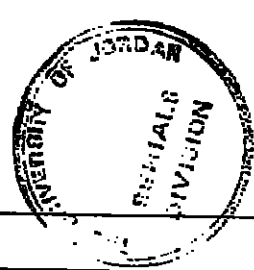
A tale of two generations, page 18

30P

THE TIMES

No. 64,817

FRIDAY DECEMBER 3 1993



Some could face 15 per cent rise Big increase for council tax next April

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MOST householders face council tax increases of between 12 and 15 per cent in April — up to nine times the inflation rate — independent analysts said last night after the government announced its local authority spending limits for next year.

The rises are, however, unlikely to prevent cuts in jobs and services as councils struggle to stay within government spending targets.

Figures announced by John Gummer, the environment secretary, yesterday suggest an average rise of 7 per cent for people living in Band C houses. But the independent Institute for Fiscal Studies said typical increases would be far higher, and up to 20 per cent for inner London families losing the transitional relief that eased the change from the poll tax.

More than two million families will lose relief this year, while others will see it cut substantially — by £67 for people in Band A houses, rising to £137 for those in the top Band H.

Councils are this year being given more leeway to raise money, but Mr Gummer insisted yesterday that he would use his powers to cap over-spending authority spending. Even so, Michael Ridge of the Institute for Fiscal Studies believes councils will spend more than the government expects. "They won't be able to hold back spending, especially on the pay bill," he said. "Therefore the council tax rises are likely to be as high as 12 per cent, reaching 15 per

Council tax increases are likely to be far greater than the government has admitted, with parts of inner London being particularly badly hit

cent, and if you live in inner London you could face very high bills — as much as 20 per cent."

In the Commons, Mr Gummer confirmed that the Whitehall ceiling for local government spending in England would be £42.66 billion, of which the government would contribute £34.31 billion. That means a shift in the balance of

town halls. Mr Gummer told MPs that the changes had been made to reflect the true demands on local authorities in areas such as education and social services and to reflect the extra costs imposed by poverty, tourism and higher wage costs in the South East.

The shake-up had produced losers as well as gainers and he was setting aside £280 million to help councils adjust to the new grant formula.

Mr Gummer declined yesterday to predict the size of average bills, but claimed that the 23 per cent increase in approved spending would allow bills to be set at "reasonable levels".

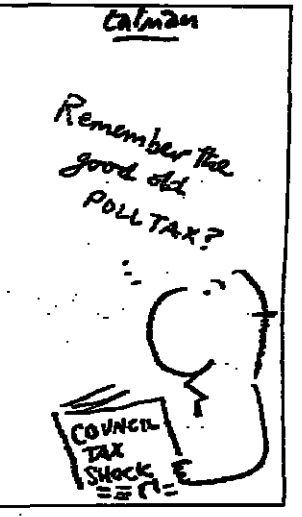
But Labour's Jack Straw said that local spending was being cut by £2.36 billion over two years in comparison with last year's projections. Mr Gummer had "surrendered" to the Chancellor and had the "worst record of any service-providing minister". Compared to what local authorities are actually spending this year, the government proposed a 1.2 per cent cash cut.

Predicting thousands of town hall job losses, he challenged the environment secretary: "Are you proud or ashamed of this surrender — of the damage which will flow from your failure to make larger classes, higher home-help charges, less help for vulnerable children, fewer day nursery places, lower spending on crime prevention and on youth work?"

On Mr Gummer's own "obsure" figures band D council tax payers faced a 6.8 per cent increase in April.

The 10 biggest "gainer" councils from the review of the grant formula are Brentwood, Tewkesbury, South Buckinghamshire, North East Derbyshire, Ashford, East Dorset, Three Rivers, Blyth Valley, Basildon, and South Oxfordshire. The 10 biggest "losers" are Brent, Hyndburn, Ipswich, Burnley, Hammer-smith and Fulham, Luton, Wandsworth, Leicester and Slough.

Spending estimates, page 11



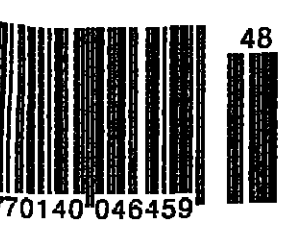
Tube train runs away

LONDON Underground passengers were taken for a 40mph ride aboard a driverless train yesterday after the driver apparently failed to disconnect the motor when he went to fix a defective door while the train was stopped at King's Cross station (Bill Frost writes).

The eight-carriage Piccadilly line train, with 150 morning rush-hour commuters, sped through Camden Road station with no one in the control cab. It was finally stopped before the next station by a red signal. A spokesman insisted that there was "no risk to customers".

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Gwendolen Randall, whose appointment to the headship of Framlingham College, Suffolk, has broken the male stranglehold on the Headmasters' Conference. Page 3

Squeeze leaves universities with 10,000 fewer places

By JOHN O'LEARY AND BEN PRESTON

UNIVERSITIES will be forced to turn away thousands of students next summer as some are ordered to cut intakes by more than the 3.5 per cent demanded in this week's Budget.

Guidelines sent to universities yesterday revive last summer's fears for a shortage of higher education places. Attempts to cap the growth in higher education costs could rebound on the government, as the demand for degree places continues to rise.

Applications for higher education courses are already up by more than 5 per cent, in spite of a drop in the number of 18-year-olds. New restrictions announced this week by John Patten, the education secretary, will mean almost 10,000 fewer vacancies in universities and colleges.

Admission tutors were forecasting higher entry requirements, as the spending squeeze added to the uncertainties of a new application process. But letters sent to universities yesterday by the Higher Education Funding Council for England will increase the pressure to raise A-level grades.

Vice-chancellors are warned to plan for "at least a 3.5 per cent reduction" in next year's intakes. Professor Graeme Davies, chief executive of the funding council, said that those who exceeded recruitment targets significantly this year may have to make deeper cuts.

Some universities took 20 per cent more students this autumn, in spite of appeals by Mr Patten and the funding council to freeze admissions at 1992 levels. This headed off a shortage of places, but led to the tighter regime announced in the Budget. Tuition fees are to be cut by 45 per cent, and

universities will only be compensated for enrolments within the new limits.

More than 125,000 offers of places have been made through the new University and College Admissions Service. But the funding council's letter says: "Institutions will need to ensure that they are in a position to exercise the necessary control over their admissions processes."

At Manchester University, senior academics are to hold an emergency meeting next week to revise admissions policy in the light of the budget proposals. In common with other civic universities, Manchester has experienced a big increase in applications this year.

Professor Ray Cowell, vice-chancellor of Nottingham Trent, one of the most popular new universities, said his admissions tutors would have to reject more applicants for the most popular courses and increase the grades of those given offers. "There will be some casualties. I think late applicants for popular courses at popular universities will be penalised."

Jeremy Paterson, dean of arts at Newcastle University, said some admissions tutors might be forced to increase target A-level grades, possibly from three Bs to two Bs and an A for some courses.

The Committee of Vice-chancellors and Principals will discuss the implications of the Budget at its regular meeting next week. A spokesman said that the decline in the number of 18-year-olds, used to justify the cuts, was no longer a reliable guide to demand. "We said this summer that universities had merely postponed the problem by a year, and now it looks like being even worse."

Patten to override Peking on new laws

FROM JONATHAN MIRSEY IN HONG KONG

CHRIS Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, said yesterday that he would introduce legislation to bring more democracy to the colony in spite of China's objections.

Peking immediately responded by accusing him of breaking off negotiations. Now it seems the way out may be through secret talks. Anson Chan, Hong Kong's new chief secretary, said that if the formal negotiations broke down, Britain would be prepared to hold high-level and if necessary secret talks with Peking. Any deal, however, would be made public, she said.

Addressing the Legislative Council, Mr Patten emphasised that Britain had been negotiating in good faith since April and had made many concessions for very little progress. "We now have no choice but to begin the process of legislation on the simpler issues," he said. These include the voting age, methods of voting in all elections and the abolition of appointed seats in local councils.

Within an hour Wu Jiammin, Peking's foreign affairs spokesman, issued a warning that if Mr Patten introduced his legislation unilaterally "that would mean the breakdown of the talks". He added that "Sino-British relations are bound to be affected."

Mr Goldberg had told the jury that Levitt put £225 million of his personal wealth into the Levitt Group in an attempt to save it from collapse. The Crown described this as a "gross misrepresentation" since it neglected allegations that Levitt had raised the money fraudulently.

Mr Justice Laws also accused Mr Goldberg of prejudicing a second trial against Levitt by ignoring a ruling he had made in 1991.

Continued on page 2, col 3

Major stands by Unionists on eve of Dublin summit

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WAITT

THE British government gave its clearest pledge last night that it would never try to persuade the people of Ulster to leave the United Kingdom and join a united Ireland.

Taking an uncompromising stance on the eve of today's Dublin meeting between John Major and Albert Reynolds, it also dashed the republic's hopes that Britain could be encouraged to accept the "value" of the objective of a united Ireland.

Yesterday the IRA murdered a soldier in Co Armagh and immediately blamed Mr Major for the attack. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, said: "Every death in this situation is regrettable. If John Major had focused on our proposals in May we would be into a demilitarised situation." The young private, who has not been named, was hit by a single bullet in the chest while on foot patrol in the village of Keady. He was the eighth victim of an IRA sniper who has stalked members of the security forces since August last year.

As both sides continued to downgrade expectations of today's encounter in Dublin Castle, Mr Major and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, adopted a tough line and went out of their way to offer reassurance to the Unionist population. Mr Major is believed to be pushing for a stronger commitment to the Ulster constitutional guarantee than Mr Reynolds is so far prepared to give in any agreement that emerges from the talks.

Sir Patrick said that the government would never "join

the ranks of the persuaders", those who wanted to encourage the people of Ulster to leave the United Kingdom.

Mr Major voiced hopes of further progress today, and at two later meetings this month but he offered no hint of movement on the key stumbling blocks that have prevented Dublin and London agreeing a communiqué.

At a Sinn Fein press conference in west Belfast, Martin McGuinness, who led the party's contacts with the Brit-



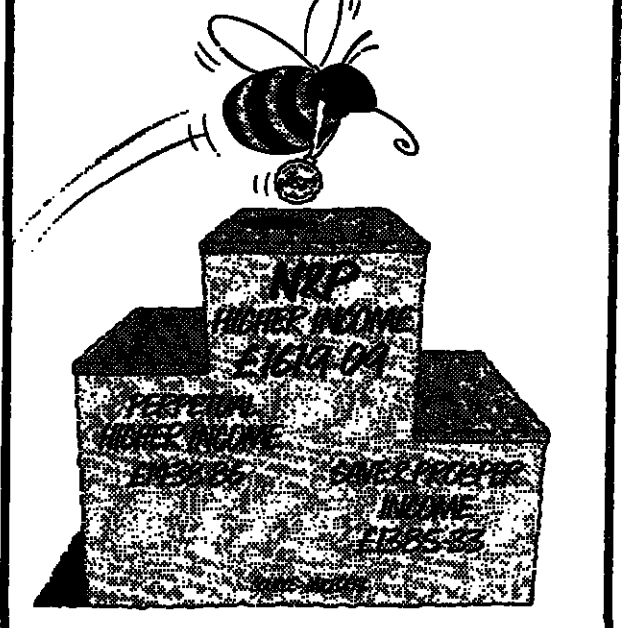
Reynolds: downgrading expectations from talks

ish government, gave a detailed account of the dialogue. He claimed that he had met a government representative who allegedly gave him details of a meeting between senior ministers on the initiative.

The government was reading the Sinn Fein statement last night and considering a response.

Ulster summit, page 2
Peter Brooks, page 20
Letters, page 21

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Conservatives must rekindle their historic alliance

By DAVID BURNSIDE

Summit meetings are dangerous. In the present tense and heated atmosphere in Northern Ireland, today's Anglo-Irish summit in Dublin is very dangerous.

Nationalist hopes and expectations are being raised, and when the irreconcilable forces of unionism and nationalism are not reconciled, further summits and meetings will be planned, and prospects for peace get worse — not better.

Today's Dublin summit meeting will be a diplomatic fudge because the British government continues to examine all the options for the constitutional future of Northern Ireland except one strengthening the union between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the only realistic and yet untried solution.

The unionist community, with justification, is more suspicious and frightened than at any time during the past 25 years. The forces ranged against them are formidable. The main spokesman for Irish nationalism, the "liberal", "decent", "principled" statesman working for peace, John Hume, dictates the political

agenda in Anglo-Irish relations for the Dublin government. He now speaks for the total nationalist community in Northern Ireland following his new-found relationship with Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin and the IRA. His international reputation has increased, especially in the United States, with the Democrats in power.

The Irish government, through its highly professional diplomatic service in London and the Maryfield secretariat in Belfast, will promote the nationalist agenda at the highest level in Whitehall, Westminster, Washington and Brussels. The Northern Ireland Office, for 20 years a Civil Service establishment with unparalleled power and patronage unsympathetic to anything on the unionist agenda, provides the administrative backup to every new "peace" initiative so long as it is framed to appease Irish nationalism.

What Dublin, John Hume and Gerry Adams wish from today's summit is an Anglo-Irish agreement Mark II. This would further

undermine Northern Ireland as a part of the United Kingdom and seek to establish joint Anglo-Irish authority and sovereignty over the internal affairs of Northern Ireland. The long-term aspiration is the destruction of the union.

While James Moynihan and the Ulster Unionist MPs he leads give the impression of calm and confidence in their public pronouncements, there is deep fear within unionism. Twenty years of colonial-style direct rule in Northern Ireland (nearly all Conservative) with every constitutional political initiative framed to appease Irish nationalism has not established much trust between the historic allies of conservatism and unionism.

The immediate danger to the unionist position is the wish of some in No 10 and the Foreign Office to broker a peace deal at any price. The IRA may be close to calling a cessation of violence, not a permanent ceasefire, to help bring them to the conference table. Their constitutional and political demands voiced by John Hume are

totally unacceptable to unionists. Sadly, further concessions to Irish nationalism will increase Loyalist paramilitary violence.

Not at today's summit, but in the not-too-distant future, John Major will be forced to establish his unionist credentials. The Ulster Unionist constitutional policies are moderate and reasonable: Ulster grand and select committees to scrutinise Northern Ireland on the same basis as Scotland and Wales; legislation to be passed by parliamentary bills, subject to the normal discussion and amendment, and not by order in council; an increase in the powers of the 26 district councils in Northern Ireland; the establishment of an administrative devolved assembly to take over many of the powers of the Northern Ireland Office; and, in parallel to establishing some accountable government in Northern Ireland, a replacement of the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement with a new bilateral relationship between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland at both governmental and parliamentary levels, based on mutual respect and co-operation, not institutionalised interference.

The Ulster Unionist Party, if it is to retain any credible electoral attraction given pressure from the Paisleyite brand of unionism, must draw its line in the sand. Mr Moynihan has risked his political reputation and future on the trust he is meant to have established with Mr Major.

There are parliamentary colleagues of Mr Moynihan and a sizeable section of the unionist population who fear and await betrayal. They remember the Powell/Moynihan confidence that Ulster would not be let down prior to the 1985 agreement that gave the Republic of Ireland an institutional say in the internal affairs of Northern Ireland.

Today's summit, next week's, next month's, will not help the peace process unless HMG stands by unionist principles and policies. And if the government and the Foreign Office find unionist principles difficult to stomach, then nine votes may help the Conservative party rediscover its unionist credentials.

□ The author is a Trustee of The Friends of the Union.

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Genus Mayhewus shows he is king of political jungle

A rare peek into the operation of Sir Patrick Mayhew's mind was offered yesterday afternoon when this most unreflexive of Northern Ireland secretaries was almost ruffled. Almost, but not quite.

It was Mayhew's Labour shadow, Kevin McNamara, who nearly discomfited him. "Does the secretary of state acknowledge the value of the goal of a united Ireland?" asked McNamara, and sat down, very abruptly.

Short questions can be the most dangerous. Sir Patrick, veteran old trout that he is and scarred survivor of countless fishing expeditions, knows a book when he sees one.

But he also knows the danger of pausing. An awkward pause, particularly after a tough question, opens the window to every intruding heckle. Persecutors like Skinner hover in wait.

As a distinguished QC, Sir Patrick knows what prosecuting counsel can do to a witness who hesitates. Now it was he who was in the witness box. There must be an immediate, confident response.

The trouble was, he had no idea what to say. "Acknowledge the value?" In whose eyes? "Goal of a united Ireland?" Maybe you do acknowledge others' goals? Or do you? It was an odd phrase. Where had McNamara found it? In Dublin? In Washington? In an old speech by one of Mayhew's own ministers? It needed thought.

Yet he must not pause. In the micro-second that elapsed, such a pause threatened. Instinctively Mayhew threw words into the void. The first two, confidently delivered, were "I think".

These are useful words; they buy a moment to reflect upon the next. He chose them carefully: "that one needs to be careful". Who can deny that one needs to be careful?

"... When people use language" (well, they had) "which attributes value... (it plainly did) "to" (pause) "particular" (pause) "notions".

Hmm. "I think one needs to be careful when people use language which attributes value to particular notions." The homily could be embroidered by little girls on to ministers' cushions. It was all but meaningless, but it gave Sir Patrick ten seconds to think what to say next.

Unfettered observers of the parliamentary scene might have noticed nothing. But for experienced minister-watchers in the press gallery above, the moment offered the same thrill as David Attenborough might feel, watching secretly from a tree as a battle-scarred old gorilla sees and avoids the pygmy's dart.

To witness and understand the age-old struggle for survival in the political jungle is as roving, in its way, as watching a ballet, a hyena stalk its prey, or a baby bird learning to fly.

Now or was this the only vignette that the beasts in the Westminster undergrowth offered the political zoologist yesterday. John Hume (SDLP, Foyle) is in danger of reminding us of an orangutan who has been asked to share his banana.

Mr Hume has risked much in trying to make a bridge between the sides in Northern Ireland. Plaudits to his courage and principle now routinely preface any reference to him. He has acquired Mahatma Gandhi status.

Such is our admiration for him that we resist a nagging suspicion that human vanity may be bound up with his crusade.

But yesterday at PM's questions, when Mr Hume seemed to be sulking as his line of questioning undermined Mr Major's own bridge-building, that suspicion tugged insistently at the sleeve.

Sinn Féin challenges Mayhew line

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SINN Féin last night attempted to exploit the government's difficulties over its contacts with the republican movement by providing a detailed chronology of the dialogue which directly challenged Sir Patrick Mayhew's account.

Martin McGuinness, who led the Sinn Féin team, said in west Belfast that he had had numerous meetings with a government official who gave him a detailed account of a cabinet discussion.

Mr McGuinness claimed that the contacts started in 1990 at the request of the government. Sir Patrick, the Northern Ireland secretary, has maintained there were no negotiations with Sinn Féin, that the contact was passed down through independent intermediaries, and that the dialogue started this February.

Mr McGuinness claimed that he was so close to the government contact that Sinn Féin was given a detailed account of a meeting between senior ministers in May this year, called after the IRA offered a ceasefire to allow for public negotiations.

Mr McGuinness said: "[then home secretary Kenneth] Clarke's advice was that the opening of public negotiations with us was 'too risky with the government under siege'. Mayhew was wobbling between 'pushing for acceptance and wanting a safer, longer period of cessa-

tion". John Major promised by instructing his secretary to draw up a programme which he would be able to announce in Parliament... "that he was instructing the NIO to enter into dialogue with the republican movement".

Mr McGuinness said that after the meeting serious dialogue broke down as Mr Major was preoccupied with satisfying the Ulster Unionists.

He claimed that the first meeting with the government official, which was arranged through an independent contact, was held in October 1990.

In January 1991, the official retired. Between June and Christmas of that year a new representative initiated a series of meetings with the independent contact.

From January to April 1992, the government official "became very active in briefing us", mainly on the inter-party talks. Between January and March 1993 the official was "in frequent contact", "on occasion on a daily basis", suggesting a meeting could take place.

Mr McGuinness said of this period: "At all times we stressed that there could be no preconditions to such a meeting. He told us that the British government accepted that the IRA activity would only be halted as a result of negotiations."

Britain firm on union, page 1



Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams condemn Britain's "cover-up" last night

Britain 'lied and lied again' over IRA documents changes

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government was accused yesterday of lying repeatedly in its attempts to cover up the "doctored" of documents relating to secret contacts with the IRA. Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin's president, claimed that the 20 changes announced by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, tallied with those identified by Sinn Féin.

Mr Adams said Britain had "lied and lied again in a transparent effort to cover up

the doctored of documents". He was backed by the Rev Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist party leader, who said Sir Patrick's credibility "is blown out of the water".

However, the government was let off the hook by MPs yesterday when the issue was not raised in the Commons. Most MPs were happy with government assurances that the errors were minor and were anxious that the temporary embarrassment would

not hamper the talks in Dublin today. Michael Manser, the former Northern Ireland minister, said: "The errors are minor and drafting changes have been made. They are not significant, but it is part and parcel of the fact that Sir Patrick has been honest about this from the start and wanted the record straight."

Kevin MacNamara, Labour's Northern Ireland spokesman, dismissed the mistakes as a side issue.

Judge attacks defence QC in Levitt case

Continued from page 1
had made which stated that certain details of the case could not be raised in front of the jury. He said it was "undeniable" that what Mr Goldberg had told the jury in outlining his client's case had caused "some prejudice".

After Mr Goldberg's speech, which followed a three-day address to the jury by the Crown, David Cocks QC asked the judge to abort the trial and start again before a new jury.

He argued that the defence counsel's remarks had "wholly subverted" the hearing. But after considering the matter for more than two days the judge rejected the application for a new trial.

A Bar spokesman said last night that normally its professional conduct committee would investigate a barrister's behaviour only if invited to do so. If there was any question of following up the criticisms made of Mr Goldberg by Mr Justice Laws, that would be considered at the committee's meeting on December 15.

Issues to be agreed in pursuit of peace

By OUR IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

LONDON and Dublin have played down today's summit because crucial differences have opened up between John Major and Albert Reynolds since they launched their initiative in Brussels last month.

But both prime ministers believe there is a rare moment for peace, and Mr Reynolds wants to focus today's discussions on two broad areas. If these are fruitful, other issues will follow during a series of working meetings in the run-up to Christmas.

Mr Reynolds's first objective is to produce a formula with Mr Major that would prompt the IRA to end its campaign. Through his indi-

rect contacts with the IRA, Mr Reynolds believes that republicans are serious about a permanent ceasefire, provided certain conditions are met.

If this first hurdle is cleared, Dublin wants to agree a declaration that the Irish people have the right to national self-determination based on consent on both sides of the border. This would aim to satisfy nationalists while reassuring unionists that change would require their consent.

This is a key proposal in the Hume-Adams initiative. If it could be agreed, Dublin might modify articles 2 and 3 of its constitution, which lay claim to Northern Ireland.

Mr Allan Lamb

OUR report (November 20) on the action brought by Sarfraz Nawaz against Allan Lamb, from which Mr Nawaz subsequently withdrew, should have stated that Mr Lamb had never alleged that Mr Nawaz

had cheated in any game in which they both played. It was said in court at the end of the case that Mr Lamb stood by all his original allegations concerning Mr Nawaz. We regret this was not made clear.

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'Unparalleled' sex attacker gets life for serial assaults

BY RONALD FAUX

A SERIAL sex attacker who stalked women and children at random, striking 17 times in a year, was jailed for life yesterday.

Gavin, 24, a community worker from Blackley, Greater Manchester, pleaded guilty at Manchester Crown Court to three charges of buggery and was given a life sentence for each. He was sentenced to an additional 30 years after admitting two offences of attempted buggery and 12 of indecent assault.

Judge Rhys Davies recommended he serve at least 20 years. "It may well be that you will never walk the streets of this city again," he told Gavin, whose victims were three women, nine girls and five boys, one aged nine. Some of them were in court.

The judge said the offences he had committed were the kind that gave rise to dread in the hearts of parents throughout the country. They were, he said, an unparalleled series of attacks on women and young girls and boys.

Gavin carried out some assaults in broad daylight, posing as a policeman. He was caught after attacking his 15th and oldest victim, a 40-year-old high-ranking British athlete, who was grabbed by Gavin as she jogged across a golf course.

Gavin subjected the woman to a sex attack at knife point but fled when her screams were heard by a passing golfer. He left behind his bicycle, which was later shown on a Crimewatch television programme and was recognised by his family. After a violent argument with his

brother, Gavin gave himself up to the police.

Earlier, the court was told that Gavin carried out the attacks across Greater Manchester between February 1992 and March 1993. Traveling by mountain bike or bus, he lurked by wasteland, canal banks and parks. He ambushed victims in Rochdale, Stockport, Chadderton, Collyhurst and Newton Heath. Over a 12-day period in Stockport he carried out four attacks, but they were so widespread and indiscriminate that detectives did not at first realise they were linked.

One 14-year-old girl was dragged away from her friend, forced to climb a barbed wire fence and then raped. The athlete attacked on the golf course told the Crimewatch programme her life had been turned upside down and would never be the same again.

Det Insp Andy Wood, who led the hunt for Gavin, said yesterday: "All rapes are appalling, but over the last 20

years I have never come across anyone who has raped and molested victims in the way this man has done. The youngsters were so terrified of his presence and perversity they must have been frozen with fear. Many still have nightmares and fear leaving their homes."

Mr Wood paid tribute to the courage of the victim who agreed to appear on the Crimewatch programme. "She played a vital part in bringing this man to justice. Without her we could still have this man at large and continuing his attacks."

The father of one 11-year-old boy attacked by Gavin said: "The offences were increasing in ferocity as they went on. We were all very pleased at the sentencing." The catering manager said his son, who had been threatened with a knife, had recovered well after help from the police and specialist counselling. But other parents who had been in court, some with their children, said they would be mentally scarred for life.

The mother of a 13-year-old boy said: "My son will never be right. Since it happened he won't go out, he won't be left in the dark and we can't leave him on his own because he is scared. We are happy with the sentence as long as it means he can never come out and do this to any more children."

Mr Wood said: "Some of these people will never recover. The judge was right when he said it was an unparalleled series of offences. I can think of no one who has attacked women and children of both sexes on the street."



Gavin: struck across Greater Manchester

The prince breezes in to a warm reception

BY ALAN HAMILTON

FRANK and Peggy Honour had the doors of their council house in Kentish Town, north London, open to admit some fresh air yesterday when the Prince of Wales called to discuss heating bills.

Their two-bedroom terraced house had been transformed overnight from a freezer to a hot-house by loft insulation, lagging for the hot water cylinder and draught-proofing. The prince was promoting the national charity Neighbourhood Energy Action, which uses public and private-sector money to insulate about 3 million homes that fail minimum standards for energy conservation.

Mr and Mrs Honour, both aged 73, told the prince that until their house had been improved, their winter quarter bills for gas central heating were as high as £70, even though they restricted heating to the living room and left the bedrooms cold. With insulation they expected their fuel bills to be cut by up to a third, although the saving would be made less by the imposition of VAT on domestic gas from next April.

Mr Honour, a retired postal worker, said yesterday: "This has made a tremendous difference: the windows don't rattle any more. But we will still have to be careful. My wife suffers from bronchitis, and she prefers a cold bedroom, which will be a help."



The prince and Andrea Cook, of Neighbourhood Energy Action, meet Mr Honour

Woman head joins men-only preserve

BY BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the last male bastions, the Headmasters' Conference, fell yesterday with the appointment of a woman to the headship of a leading independent school.

Gwendolen Randall will take charge of Framlingham College, Suffolk, in September, becoming the first female head in the conference's 134-year history. The move comes just two days after Eton College broke new ground by appointing a New Zealander as Head Master.

Mrs Randall, 42, said she hoped that more independent schools would have the courage to appoint women heads. She said: "I think parents are less cautious about us than governors often think. Many senior women teachers are not given the opportunity to exercise management skills."

The 238 independent schools that make up the conference have been notably quicker to accept girls as fee-payers than to promote women teachers. Only 69 schools remain boys-only.

Mrs Randall, who gained a first in French at Bristol University, has been deputy head at Dauntsey's School, Wiltshire, since 1985. She is married, with a 14-year-old daughter.

Framlingham is mixed and has more than 400 pupils. Mrs Randall succeeds James Miller.

Photograph, page 1

Bomb plot mole got £400,000

BY RICHARD DUCE

AN MI5 agent yesterday told the Old Bailey he was paid £400,000 to change his identity and establish a new life after foiling an Irish terrorist bombing plot. But Patrick Daly denied he had previously been recruited by the security services and sent to infiltrate the extremist Irish National Liberation Army.

Mr Daly is a prosecution witness in the trial of Martin McMahon, 31, from Limerick, and Liam Heffernan, 31, from Belfast. They deny charges of conspiring to cause explosions with intent to endanger life, conspiring to steal and possessing a firearm.

They were arrested after Mr Daly helped lure them to the

quarry in Somerset, where armed police were waiting in February this year.

Mr Daly, who is giving evidence from behind a screen, described as "complete and utter rubbish" a suggestion that he was sent by MI5 on an operation to the Irish Republic in 1989. While living in Bristol, he said he was paid around £100 a month to inform on possible Irish terrorist activities in the area.

Rock Tansey QC, for Mr McMahon, suggested that Mr Daly was a very skilled liar. He asked him: "How much have you been paid since the arrests of these two defendants?" Mr Daly said: "I have been reimbursed for my

resettlement, approximately £400,000."

The court has heard how Mr Daly, a former member of the Irish Republican Socialist party, the political wing of INLA, had been approached in Belfast last year by the INLA to gather intelligence about quarries in the Bristol area. He kept MI5 informed of the plan to steal explosives and arranged a safe house for the alleged terrorists in Bristol which was bugged by MI5.

The jury listened to a tape recorded in the safe house. Mr Daly was heard telling them a bomb had gone off in London. This is followed by laughter from the alleged terrorists. The trial continues.

TOMORROW

THE TIMES vision

SEVEN DAYS OF
TELEVISION AND RADIO

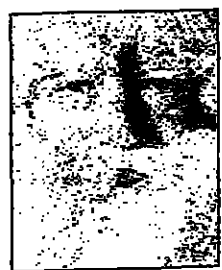
Plus

How BEN ELTON brought Stark to the screen

Laurie Taylor on PHIL COLLINS

The pick of the week's BEST FILMS

WEEKEND

ALAN COREN
is Father Christmas: life in the Selfridge grottoPETER BARNARD
kicks off a new countryside campaign seriesFRANCES BISSELL
concocts sumptuous Christmas hampersFRANCIS URQUHART
confesses (almost) all to Edward MarriottPAUL HEINEY
fails to get his birdMEL BATTY
gives his exclusive monthly marathon training update
PLUS the Alexander Technique applied to runningANDREW BARR
observes old-world lessons for New World Pinot NoirFRANK JEFFERY
suggests a non-fattening feast for chocoholics

And: Capoeira, a new Brazilian martial arts dance comes to Britain; Robin Young has the latest restaurant news; London Zoo starts an interactive nativity play with children and animals; Francesca Greenoak digs out presents for gardeners; Christian Dymond starts a three-part series about coppicing

Suicidal patient was refused bed in hospital

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

A SUICIDAL elderly woman referred to hospital as an emergency case killed herself hours after being sent home by a doctor because there were no empty beds, a report published yesterday found.

The woman doctor, who worked in the accident and emergency department of a London hospital, decided that the patient was not "actively suicidal despite a referral letter from her GP saying he feared for her safety. She sent the woman home in a taxi, and made no attempt to contact her GP."

Shortly after arriving home with her husband, the 71-year-old woman jumped from the balcony of her 10th-floor flat.

The doctor, who worked for a hospital run by Bloomsbury and Islington health authority, was criticised in the report by William Reid, the health service commissioner, for failing to admit the woman, who had threatened regularly to throw herself off the balcony. Although the doctor believed there was no space in the hospital, beds were later found to have been available.

The case is highlighted in the commissioner's latest report of investigations into NHS complaints, which for the first time identifies the health authorities and trusts involved. Mr Reid also issued a warning to doctors who victimise patients for complaining.

Report of the Health Service Commissioner: First Report Session 1993/94. Selected investigations completed April 1 to September 1993 (HMSO: £17.20)

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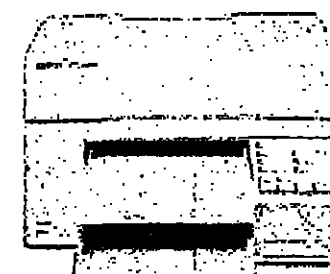
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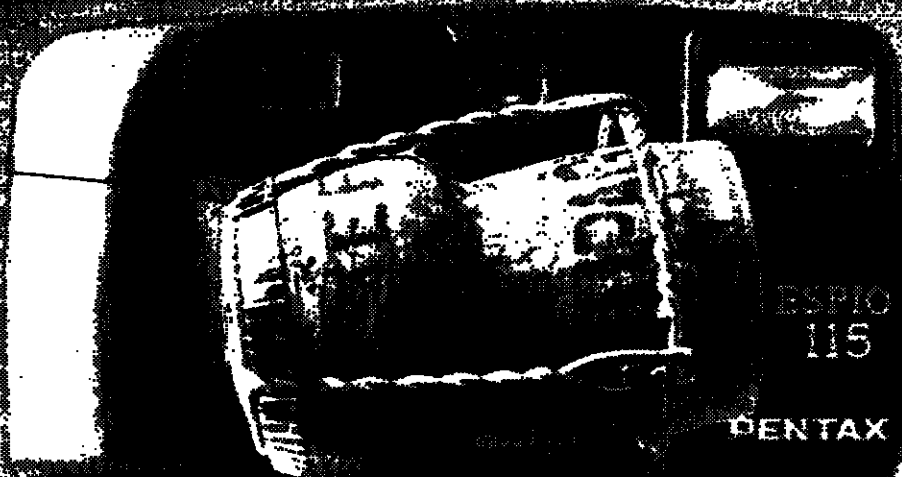
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Coroner seeks baby seat review after twins die in crash

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

A CORONER called for new regulations to ensure the safety of baby seats yesterday after hearing how two infants were killed in a car crash in September. The four-month-old twins were on a day trip to the seaside when their parents' Rover Metro went out of control in wet weather and hit an oncoming car near Weymouth.

Both boys suffered fractured skulls even though they were in restraining seats. Christopher Key was thrown from his chair and was later found in the car boot, while Matthew is thought to have banged his head against the unpadding, winged sides of his seat.

The boys' parents, Trevor and Yvonne Key, of Nottingham, are considering legal action against Boots, where they bought the "own-brand" seats for £15.

The inquest heard that the seats had been fitted the wrong way round by Mr Key, but that had not contributed to

their deaths. Nicholas Gardiner, the Oxfordshire coroner, said the accident highlighted worries about the safety of child seats. The lack of padding near the child's head and the confusing instructions for fitting the seats were causes for concern, he said.

Recording verdicts of accidental death, Mr Gardiner said: "What are parents to do? I am sure Mr Key did his best to fit the seats. The fact that he got it wrong did not affect the outcome of this case, but it does not mean that there will not be other cases where it does and that worries me."

"I hope that those responsible for producing new standards will do so rapidly."

The coroner recommended that plans for improved seats be speeded up and urged parents with any doubts about the safety of their children's seats to contact the manufacturers immediately.

Neville Radcliffe, representing Mr and Mrs Key, said the

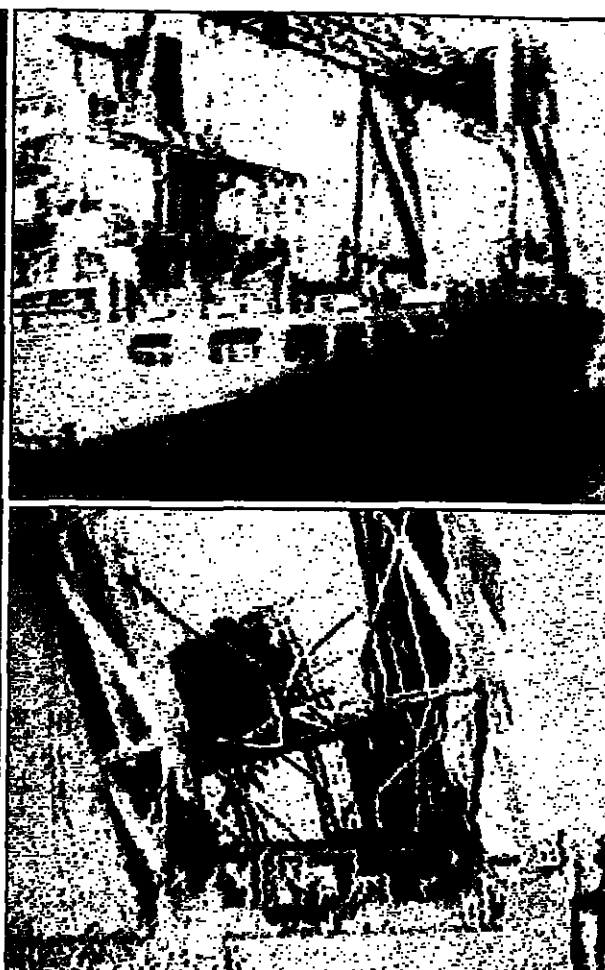
family was considering legal action against K.L. Jeenay, the seat manufacturers in Birmingham, and Boots. "After this case, child seats are giving cause for concern generally," he said.

PC Geoffrey Chambers, the accident investigator, told the inquest he was concerned that the babies died from fractured skulls even though damage to the cars was not severe. He said the fitting instructions for the seats, with the Rainbow brand name, were complicated.

Dr Stephen Rattenbury, of Vehicle Safety Consultants Limited, said the Rainbow seats performed to two different sets of British Standards specifications. There was a piece of polystyrene padding behind the child's head, but no similar protection to the side wings.

David Charlton, representing Boots, said the seats were no longer sold by the company.

Video of crane's collapse leads to £400,000 award for driver



John Devereux and the moment caught on film before the crane's collapse, top, and trapped in the cab as it fell

JOHN Devereux, 46, a Liverpool crane driver, was yesterday awarded £400,000 for injuries suffered when he fell 40ft to the deck of a ship inside the cab of his crane.

He lay unconscious in hospital for nearly four weeks and suffered paralysis of the right side of his face, multiple fractures including his skull, epilepsy, deafness in one ear and memory loss. The accident also led to the break-up of his nine-year marriage.

Mr Devereux, a father of two, of Anfield, was working at the time as a gantry crane operator for Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. He was trying to lift a container held fast to the deck when the crane collapsed.

The breakthrough in his fight for compensation came when it was realised a cameraman on a passing ferry had filmed the accident. It led to the board admitting 100 per cent liability.

Approving the claim for compensation, Mr Justice Porter said at the High Court in Liverpool: "Although it is a large amount of money, it cannot truly stand as true compensation."

Mr Devereux said after the hearing: "I'm am just glad that it is all over but it will never bring my wife and children back."

Flu epidemic loses its grip on Britain

By LUCY BERRINGTON

SCOTLAND is leading the way towards recovery, according to figures which suggest that the flu epidemic that has gripped Britain for the past two months is finally petering out.

Provisional figures for the week ending November 28 show 174 people suffering from "flu-like illness" for every 100,000 members of the population — a fall from 200 in the first week of November. Cases of influenza proper are put at 36 per 100,000, compared with 39 in the previous week.

The epidemic started in Scotland and during October worked its way south. The figures for the second half of November show a similar pattern for its decline. Rates of flu-like illness have dropped in the north, from 229 per 100,000 in early November to 158 last week. They have reached a plateau in central and southern regions, at 200-

245 per 100,000, and are now expected to fall.

Researchers do not know what is causing the decline. Dr John Watson, of the Public Health Laboratory Service, said the severity and tenacity of a flu virus was impossible to predict. "It is determined by the extent to which a population has recently come across a similar virus and retained some immunity," he said, adding that a resurgence of the epidemic this year is possible but not likely.

In the week ending November 19, 42 deaths from influenza and influenza pneumonia were recorded at the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, a rise from 28 the previous week and just two per week in early October. The number of deaths attributed to flu in any winter ranges from 1,000 to the estimated 25,000 of 1969. In a typical year it is between 3,000 and 4,000.

NEWS IN BRIEF

DNA solves 10-year rape case

A man who raped a woman with Down's syndrome ten years ago was jailed for four years yesterday after genetic finger-printing linked him with the crime (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Mohammed Aslam, 38, fled to the United States after the rape in 1983. He was arrested when he returned to Edinburgh last year.

Lord Abernethy, passing sentence in the High Court, said: "The fact that in this case the victim was a young woman with the medical condition she had shows that it was a particularly mean and cowardly offence."

Pub delay

Judgment in a High Court case that could affect hundreds of British pubs was reserved after a two-day hearing involving the brewer Courage and James Little, a Norwich publican who is seeking to renew his lease.

Murder charge

Jason Anderson, 24, of Ramsgate, Kent, was remanded in custody by Margate magistrates, charged with murdering his girl friend, Alison Thorpe, 27, whose body was found in a car park.

Driver guilty

Wahed Sayed, 21, a minicab driver, was found guilty at the Old Bailey of raping two women he picked up on separate occasions at Shepherd's Market, central London. He will be sentenced later.

Lawyer dies

Steven Burr, 53, a solicitor who was being investigated by the Law Society over missing money, was found dead in a fume-filled car at Barnett Copse, Hampshire.

Nose bitten

A student is to have plastic surgery after a street fight in Sheffield in which half his nose and a chunk of his cheek was bitten off.

Warning! Exercise can harm your heart

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

PEOPLE urged to do more exercise should think twice before rushing into it. Working up an unaccustomed sweat can trigger a heart attack rather than help to prevent one, studies in the US and Germany have shown.

In the American study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, those unused to exercise increased their risks a hundred-fold, while even those who exercised regularly doubled their risk when doing something especially strenuous.

The types of exercise strenuous enough to trigger a heart attack involve panting, overheating and sweating. They include running, fast jogging, tennis, cross-country skiing, pushing a mower, heavy gardening and pushing a car in snow.

The German study, reported in the same issue of the journal, backs up the American findings but puts the risks of exercise slightly lower.

So what is the message? Is exercise good or bad for your heart? Both, concludes the journal in an editorial. Exercise at frequent intervals over a long time protects against heart disease. But among sedentary people sudden exertion can multiply the risks.

The authors of the American study put the results in context by pointing out that the risk a non-smoking 50-year-old man will have a heart attack in any given one-hour period is one in a million. If he is normally sedentary but engaged in strenuous activity in that hour, the risk becomes one in 10,000.

□ Fruit and vegetables rich in B-carotene can protect against the risk of heart attack, a report in *The Lancet* said yesterday. The results of a study in nine European countries backs up the growing evidence for the benefits of this naturally occurring chemical in foods such as carrots and green leafy vegetables.

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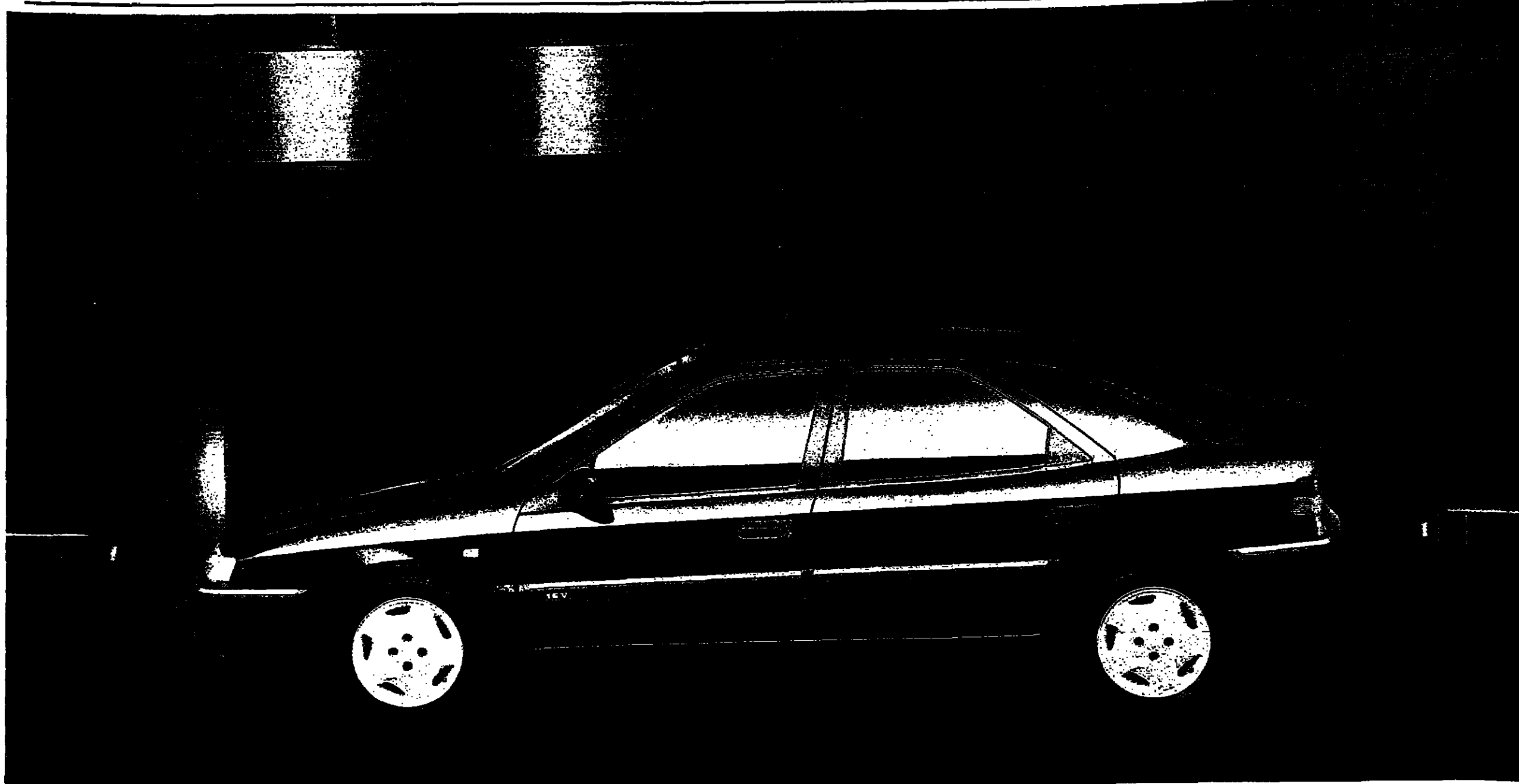
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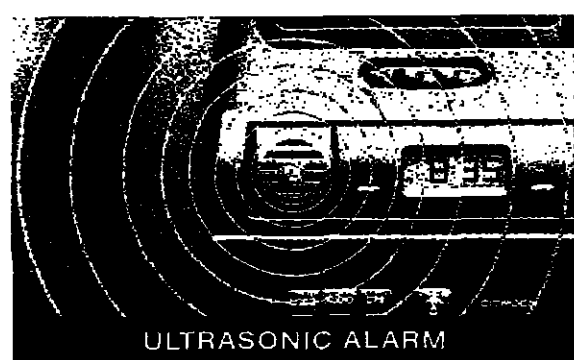
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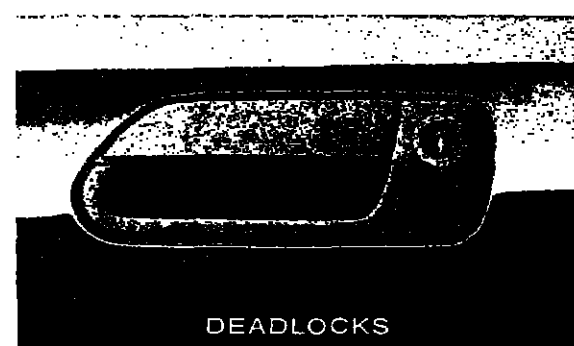
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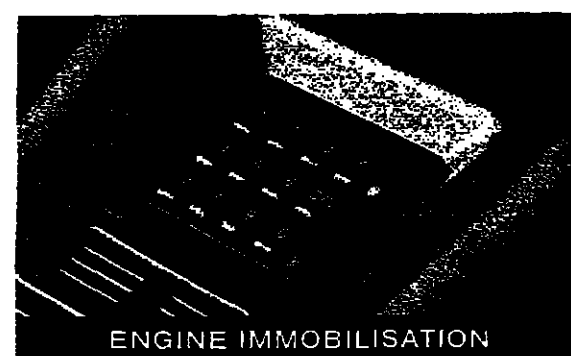
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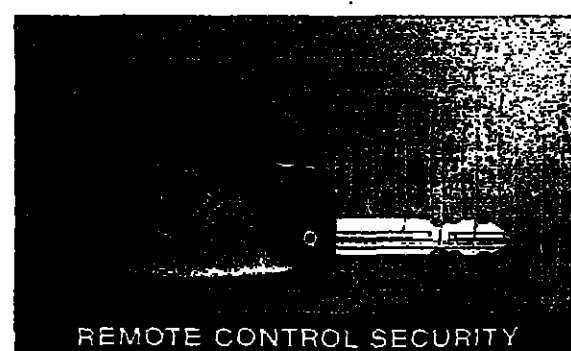
Most models are protected by an engine immobilisation device. Until your personal code has been punched into the key pad, the car cannot start.



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TOKEN

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THE TIMES
Moonlight
of the b
economy
Britain

Double decker
buses tourism

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Holland

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Moonlighters of the black economy cost Britain £48bn

By MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S black economy could be worth up to £48 billion a year — almost 8 per cent of gross national product — according to a National Audit Office report published yesterday.

The government's spending watchdog says, however, that the loss of taxes to the Exchequer is impossible to assess accurately.

It says that among the worst offenders are building workers, car salesmen, market traders, guest house owners, bookkeepers and auditors, insurance agents and brokers, scrap dealers and road haulage contractors. The report says tax inspectors assigned to tracking them down are "faced with a difficult and time consuming task."

Other occupations investigated by the Inland Revenue in the last ten years include theatre acting, journalism, optometry, pharmacy and photocopying. The investigations into theatre acting and photocopying were particularly successful.

The report says some £4.6 billion in undeclared taxes was clawed back in 1992-3, following the Inland Revenue's decision to create a special Schedule D (self-employed) compliance unit to seek out "ghosts" and "moonlighters". The former are people who should pay tax but for whom no records exist, while the latter are registered tax payers who receive un-

taxed and undeclared income from second jobs.

A special tax office created to examine the status of "self-employed" cameramen and other behind-the-scenes workers in the television and film industry yielded some £35 million a year in additional tax, and at least 7,000 of them became pay-as-you-earn employees overnight.

The report adds that an internal audit of tax assessments and codings in 1993 revealed an alarmingly high error rate. These errors may have led to tax under-payments of between £34 million and £58 million a year. Conversely, over-payments of between £64 million and £93 million were revealed.

An estimated £800 million in excess income tax remains unclaimed.

During 1992-3, the Inland Revenue collected some £76 billion in net taxes, while Customs and Excise collected £63 billion.

Customs and Excise identified £1,960 million in additional VAT liability, more than £1,640 million of which was discovered during visits to traders. Examinations of import entry documents and inspections of goods revealed more than 156,000 irregularities, bringing in an additional £94 million to the Exchequer.

Revenue Accounts 1992-93 (National Audit Office, Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria, London SW1W 9SP).



Postman fights child payments

By FRANCES GIBBS

A POSTMAN whose child maintenance has been increased almost fivefold by the Child Support Agency went to the High Court yesterday in an attempt to protect his wages.

When Charles Edlin opens his pay packet this week he expects to find only £96 left of his weekly take-home wage of £175. The rest will have been taken by the agency.

Mr Edlin, 40, of Brixton, south London, had been paying his ex-wife, Phyllis, £16 a week for the younger of their two sons, aged 13. The agency increased the maintenance order to £79. Before he could appeal, the agency obtained an order requiring the Royal Mail to deduct the money from his pay.

Yesterday he sought leave for a judicial review and an injunction against the agency and his employers. Mr Justice Laws adjourned the case until next week, with a request that the agency be represented in court "to tell me what they have to say about it". He told Mr Edlin that the court could intervene only if the law had made an error in law or acted outside its powers.

Team set for London to New York the hard way

By JOHN YOUNG

THE longest overland journey yet attempted — from London to New York via Siberia — will depart from Whitehall on December 27.

Those who think the feat is impossible should know that it includes a crossing of the icebound Bering Strait between Asia and Alaska. The expedi-

tion — sponsored by the Ford motor company and Meridian Television, which will produce reports for the Independent Television network — is expected to take about three months and hopes to reach the United Nations headquarters on March 30.

Six drivers will set off at noon in two Ford Mondeo's, accompanied by a back-up team. They will travel

through the Channel tunnel on a work train.

The team plans to reach Moscow on January 2 and then set off across Siberia to Uelen on the Bering Strait. They will traverse the strait on 12-seater Arktos tracked vehicles, then travel by snowmobile before rejoining the Mondeo's for the final leg.

At yesterday's media launch at the

Royal Geographical Society in London, Richard Creasey, the expedition organiser, named four of the drivers. They are Viktor Karpukhin, a major-general in the Russian army; Jeff MacInnis, a former member of Canada's world cup skiing team; Peter Duncan, the presenter of *Blue Peter*; and Jeni Ballagh, a university student in Northern Ireland.

Double decker bus leads tourism drive

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON must keep its red double decker buses and the guard at Buckingham Palace will have to be changed every day if Britain is to attract its potential 24 million foreign visitors and the £11 billion they are expected to spend in 1997, according to the British Tourist Authority.

In a report sent to government departments, the BTA argues that the powerful symbols and images of Britain must remain firmly fixed in foreign minds if they are to be persuaded to visit. Yet, the government must press ahead with developments to ensure they have a

smooth, efficient and affordable stay.

"The red bus is a symbol of London which is recognised all over the world and is an immensely valuable promotional tool," says the report.

The BTA says urgent action is needed to develop the high speed rail link from the Channel tunnel. It also backs calls for a reform of the Sunday trading laws and for fixed price menus in restaurants.

"Britain has long been in the top six in the world tourism earnings league," said Adele Biss, the BTA chairman. "We cannot afford to be complacent."

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KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

World Junior

BRITAIN'S Matthew Sadler lost his last round game in the World Junior championship in Calcut, India, thus finishing with 8.5 points out of 13 possible. The championship was won by Miladinovich (from the former Yugoslavia) who scored 9.5 points.

Tilburg, Holland

The first game of the final in the Tilburg knockout tournament in The Netherlands was drawn. The prize for the eventual winner is £40,000.

Ivanchuk missed his chance on move 24 to shatter Karpov's kingside with 24 Bxf6. The move chosen by White lost both time and the initiative and thereafter Ivanchuk was fortunate to draw a much inferior endgame.

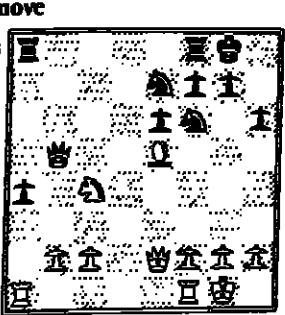
White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Tilburg Final, 1993

Caro-Kann Defence

- 1 e4 c6
- 2 d4 d5
- 3 Nc3 dxc4
- 4 Nxc4 Nf6
- 5 Bc4 Ng6
- 6 Ng5 e6
- 7 Qe2 Nd6
- 8 Bb3 h6
- 9 Nf3 a5
- 10 a3 a4
- 11 Bb2 c5
- 12 Bb1 Nbd5
- 13 Bb5 b4
- 14 Nd2 b5
- 15 Ng3 bxc3
- 16 Bc4 bxc3
- 17 O-O bxc3
- 18 Rb3 bxc3
- 19 Nc4 bxc3
- 20 Nc5 bxc3
- 21 Nc4 bxc3
- 22 Nc5 bxc3
- 23 Nc7+ Nc7
- 24 Bb6 Nf5
- 25 Rf1 Rf8
- 26 Bc5 Rf8

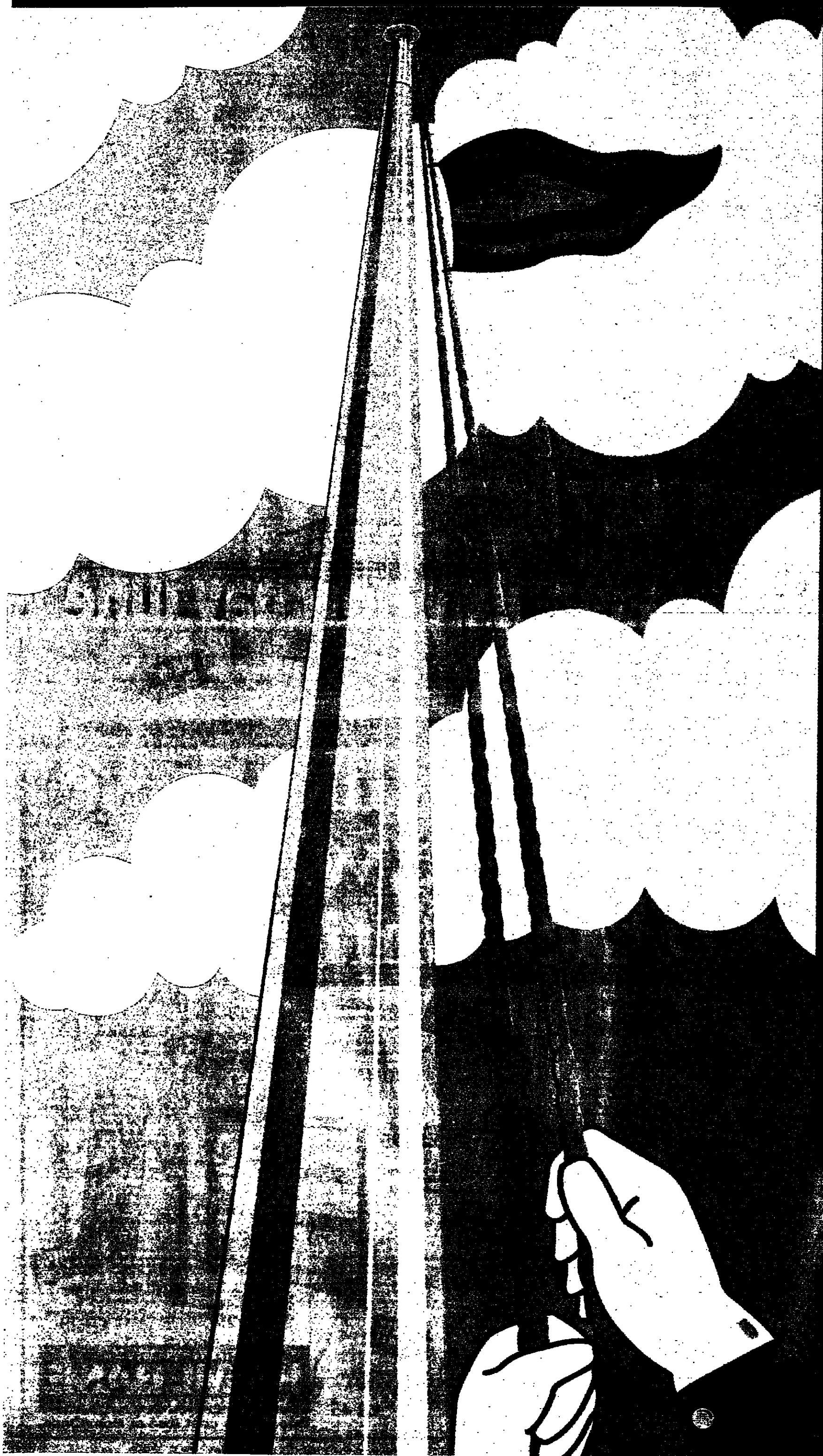
- 27 Na3 Qe2
- 28 Rb2 Nf7
- 29 Bc3 Nd6
- 30 f3 Nd5
- 31 Be1 Rb8
- 32 c3 Rb3
- 33 Ra2 Nf6
- 34 Bf2 Nd4
- 35 Rxc4 Rxc4
- 36 g3 e5
- 37 Rxa3 Rxa3
- 38 bxa3 Rxc3
- 39 Ra2 Rb3
- 40 a4 Nb4
- 41 Rf1 Na6
- 42 e5 Kf6
- 43 Kg2 Rf8
- 44 g4 Rg5
- 45 Kf3 Rf5
- 46 h3 Rb5
- 47 Ra3 Ke7
- 48 Bg3 Kf6
- 49 Kg2 hxc4
- 50 hxc4 e5
- 51 Kf3 g6
- 52 Kg3 Ke6
- 53 Kf3 f5
- 54 Rf3 Kd5
- 55 Rf3+ Kd5
- 56 Rf3 Kd5
- 57 Rf3+ Kd5
- 58 Rf3+ Kd5
- 59 Bb6 gxf5
- 60 gxf5 Rf4
- 61 Bb8 Rf4
- 62 Rb3+ Kd5
- 63 Bf6 Rf5
- 64 Rb6 Nc7
- 65 a5 Kd7
- 66 e7 e+4
- 67 Kf4 Rf5
- 68 e8Q Na8
- 69 Rb7+ Ke6
- 70 Bc8 Draw agreed

Diagram after Black's 23rd move



Winning Move, page 48

Raising car standards
is never a waste of energy.



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Portillo to push for move towards Workfare scheme

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Portillo is expected to press for further moves towards Workfare schemes as part of a long-term review of the employment department, starting next month.

Employment, transport, trade and industry and legal services are to be the next main areas to be investigated by the chief secretary to the Treasury in his drive to curb state spending.

The employment review is expected to focus on ways of linking unemployment benefits to Workfare schemes, particularly in the light of this week's decision to restrict unemployment benefit to six months. Although employment ministers have so far ruled out a nationwide Workfare scheme, they are already piloting schemes to link benefit payments with community service.

The new jobseeker's allowance, which replaces unemployment benefit, is tied more closely to active job hunting but some ministers feel that those getting the dole should do some work in return, an idea floated by the prime minister earlier this year in a speech at the Carlton Club. The employment review will also look at ways of encouraging the private sector to play a bigger role in training and

other schemes to attract people back into work.

Mr Portillo is expected to ask John MacGregor, the transport secretary, for a full study into capital projects which could be designed, built, financed and where possible run by the private sector. Mr MacGregor has already decided to impose motorway charges to allow extensions and repairs to go ahead, but in the longer term he is hoping to sell off Britain's motorway network.

He also intends to privatise Britain's regional airports, possibly by introducing legislation next autumn. However, the government has been widely criticised for failing to go ahead more quickly with joint public/private sector initiatives. One example is the latest delay of the Channel tunnel rail link, which has now been put out to tender.

The review of the legal departments is likely to concentrate on curbing legal aid and cutting manpower across the legal services. Mr Portillo will also be exploring areas of the court services which can be privatised. Other areas to be scrutinised by Mr Portillo next year include the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, HM Treasury and urban expenditure.

The Budget Red Book makes clear that the aim of the individual reviews is to "seek out areas from which the state might withdraw altogether or where better targeting is now appropriate".

Health, social security, the Home Office and education have already been under the spotlight this year. Interim results from these reviews have already been fed into the Budget. These include curbs on invalidity benefit, statutory sick pay and unemployment benefit. All four departments will continue to be reviewed as part of a rolling programme.

Further tougher measures to restrict welfare spending are now being explored by the social security department, including the possibility of opting out of state pensions and means testing child benefit.

However, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, indicated on Wednesday that he did not favour opting out of state pensions, nor was he keen on further sweeping reforms to the welfare state. Mr Portillo may find that he has to curb some of his enthusiasm to reduce the state sector under the present Chancellor.

Philip Howard, page 20
Letters, page 21
Pennington, page 27



Andrew Mitchell, Tory MP for Gedling, who was voted "Best Pressed MP" by the iron manufacturer Rowenta UK after being nominated by his secretaries

Clarke's victory over Labour may be short-lived

Kenneth Clarke turned the tables on the Opposition on Tuesday. He left the Labour frontbench floundering by his daring. But the longer the debate continues, the more it appears that Labour could be the eventual gainer.

Mr Clarke revelled in stealing the Opposition's clothes. His casual reference to closing tax loopholes, almost frivolous in its brevity, seemed designed less to raise revenue than to outflank Gordon Brown, his shadow, after his pre-Budget campaign on tax avoidance. Similarly, Mr Clarke's compensation package to cover some of the costs of the extension of value added tax to domestic fuel and his new childcare allowance followed Labour's proposals ahead of Tuesday. That has forced Labour into a negative position.

Mr Clarke was addressing the Tory party more than the electorate as a whole. He wanted to unite Conservative MPs, and the package should be approved by the Commons without too many difficulties. The Chancellor's initial success should ensure that Tory MPs remain favourably disposed, whatever reservations they have about detailed social security changes and the council tax. The Budget is still a plus in Tory eyes.

But the verdict of voters could be different. It does not matter to them whether the measures were introduced by Mr Clarke or Norman Lamont, his predecessor, last March. They will still pay a lot more in tax, starting next April and continuing the following April. In that respect, Mr Clarke's dramatic coup in not extending VAT does not matter.

What matters is the two-stage extension of VAT to domestic fuel, the rise in employees' national insurance

contributions (equivalent to more than a 1p increase in income tax), the freezing of personal allowances, the reduction in the value of the married couples' and mortgage interest relief, plus other, smaller new taxes and the freeze on public sector pay and running costs.

None of that is a recipe for Tory success in the local and Euro-elections next May and June. The public's complaints may be less narrowly focused than over the extension of VAT, but complaints there will be. Take-home pay will be cut. The Institute for Fiscal Studies has estimated that the combined effect of the Lamont and Clarke Budgets will be a cut in after-tax income of 3.5 per cent for the average household.

So Mr Brown is right to bang on about tax increases. The message may sound monotonous in the Commons, but it is what concerns voters. Mr Brown's refrain about not trusting the Tories on tax again could eventually make an impact.

There is still, however, a hole in Labour's economic approach. The pre-Budget emphasis on closing tax loopholes as an alternative to extending VAT was smart tactics. But it is not a long-term policy. Labour still has to explain how it would cut the deficit.

Mr Brown has sensibly wanted to clear the decks of past spending and tax commitments. But talking about the beneficial effects of higher growth, and longer-term policies to encourage investment and training is not enough. There is a structural problem which requires higher taxes paid by everyone (not just tackling abuses), cuts in spending plans, or probably a mix of both.

Labour may gain in the medium term from the Budget. If it is to gain in the long term, it has to offer its own alternative strategy.

PETER RIDDELL

Staff under pressure to work on Sunday

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Sunday shopping dispute was inflamed yesterday by claims that shop workers are facing intensified pre-Christmas pressure to work on Sundays.

Days before MPs vote on new shopping laws, campaigners against Sunday trading said that the Commons decision would come as shop staff faced increasingly hostile pressure to work on Sundays.

Michael Howard, the home secretary, last month agreed to a key concession to the Sunday trading bill, allowing shop staff to refuse to work on Sundays. However, a leading retailer in the campaign to allow Sunday shopping was accused yesterday of pressuring staff to work on Sundays up to Christmas.

A branch manager of W.H. Smith wrote to part-time staff telling them that they would be "required to work all three Sundays [leading up to Christmas]". The notice in the Milton Keynes branch added: "If, in the final resort, you are asked to work, you must." W.H. Smith said the company did not approve of the letter that the manager had been disciplined for his "unacceptable behaviour".

Opponents of Sunday trading said that the case typified the increasing pressure on shop staff, despite company claims that Sunday work would be voluntary. "In future, pressure won't be evident in letters like this. Managers will be much more subtle and will be very difficult for an employee to prove," said Michael Schluter, director of the Keep Sunday Special campaign. MPs will be given a free vote next Wednesday on three options to change the law.

Motorway tolls likely within five years

By TIM JONES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S 23 million motorists can expect to start paying for using motorways within five years under a scheme which will add about £1.50 for a hundred-mile journey.

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, hopes that electronic charging will raise about £700 million a year for roads which threaten to be swamped by traffic increases of up to 60 per cent by the year 2010.

Before electronic tolling is introduced, many roads may have "shadow tolls" under the government's plans to involve the private sector.

Contractors will be invited to design, build, finance and operate roads and be paid by the government on the basis of how many cars use them.

Yesterday Mr MacGregor moved to deflect critics of motorway charging by pledging that the money raised would not be grabbed by the Treasury but used exclusively on building and operating the charged network.

His announcement was attacked by the British Road Federation, which said that unless there was a guarantee that the money raised would not be matched by further cuts in spending it would be rejected as just another Treasury tax.

Frank Dobson, the shadow transport secretary, dismissed the announcement as "just another Tory stunt to impose additional taxes".

Mr MacGregor said he had rejected the use of a simple permit system as an interim measure because half of all motorists never, or hardly ever, used motorways. Electronic tolling, he said, would be fair as it would be a direct way of making the user pay.

The week in Parliament

The main business in Parliament in the next week is expected to be:

House of Commons
Today: Debate on Christmas recess motion when a variety of topics can be raised.
Monday: Budget debate.
Tuesday: Conclusion of the Budget debate.
Wednesday: Sunday trading bill, committee, first day.
Thursday: Debate on the

European Community.
Friday: Private members' motions.
House of Lords
Monday: Trade marks bill, second reading.
Tuesday: Education bill, second reading.
Wednesday: Debate on the need for respect for other people and the law.
Thursday: Intelligence services bill, second reading.

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Council services threatened by cuts

BY IAN MURRAY

■ Councils claim the spending curbs will of local democratic r

enough to maintain existing services and the capping criteria mean that councils cannot

According to the AMA the level of the grant and the tighter cap mean that councils have virtually no say over what money they raise or spend. "They can only decide what to cut. Central government rules the roost, which makes a mockery of local choice and local democratic responsibility."

The association said that the rate support grant settlement was the toughest yet, and amounted to a 1.2 per cent cut in local government spending. "It confirms that local government services are being forced to bear the brunt of the government's desire to cut public spending," said Jeremy Beedham, the association's chairman.

"The level of grant is not

■ Councils claim that the government's spending curbs will make a mockery of local democratic responsibility

enough to maintain existing services and the capping criteria mean that councils cannot raise council taxes to make up the shortfall."

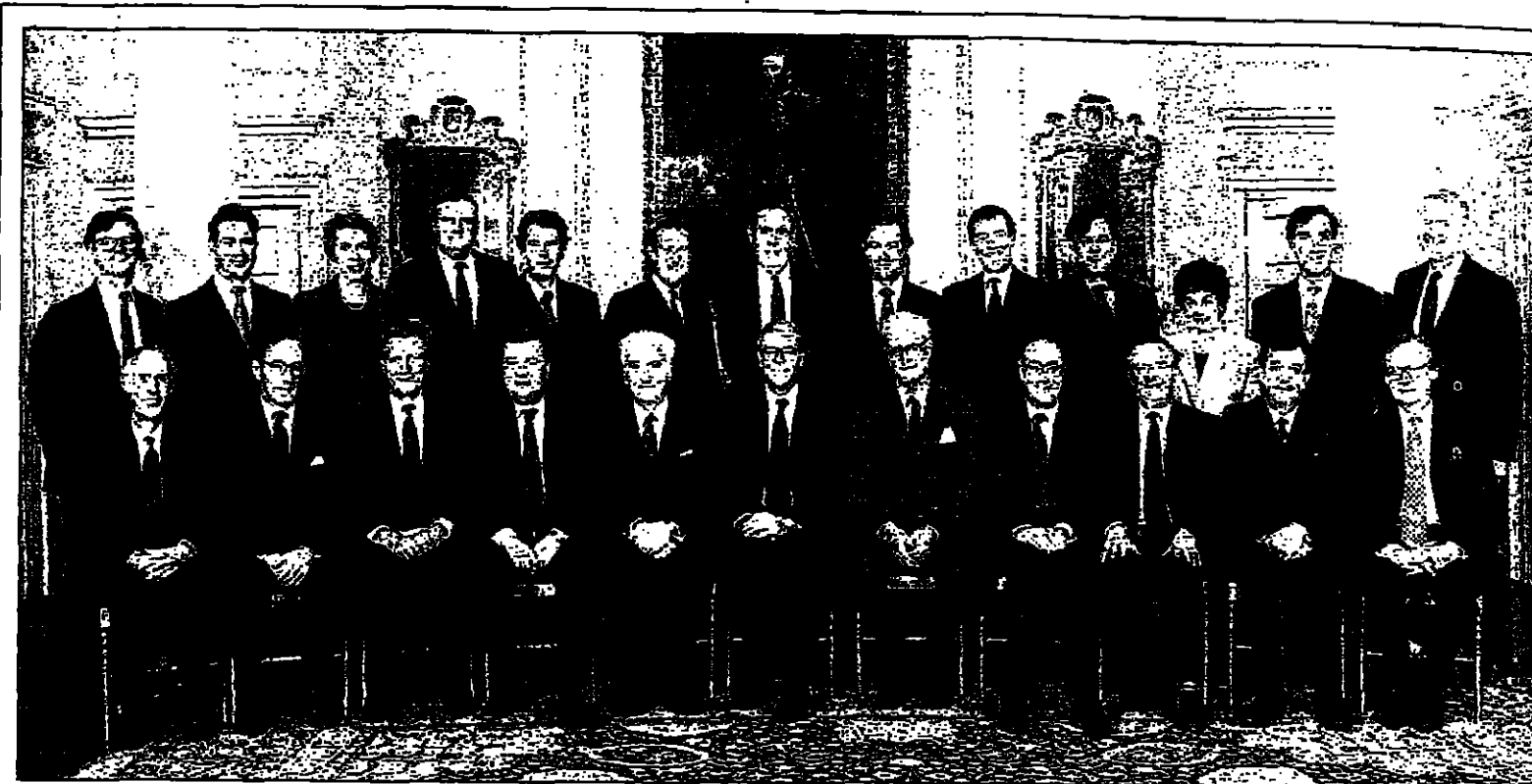
According to the government only seven local authorities will need to reduce their proposed budgets this year. They include five Labour controlled councils (Harlow, Ipswich, Leicester, Watford and Derwentside), one Conservative council, Basildon, and Elmbridge, where no party has overall control.

A spokesman at Basildon said that the council's problems stemmed from the mid-1980s, when £30 million was borrowed by the then Labour-controlled council to finance large capital projects including a theatre, a leisure centre and new offices. The council had been capped in eight out of the last nine years and servicing the debt was now

taking nearly a quarter of the council's annual £21.4 million budget.

The council, which became Conservative-controlled last year, had managed to avoid capping last year by making 300 people redundant and closing down a number of services. "This year there was just nothing more to cut yet once again we are going to be capped," the spokesman said.

AMA figures issued yesterday point to widespread cuts in services over the past year as councils controlled by all the parties tried to stay inside their budgets. Conservative controlled Barnet had 184 redundancies, closed a day nursery and an old folk's home, and cut back on education and youth services. Labour controlled Birmingham made 866 people redundant and saved £20 by reducing services.



Cabinet line-up: back row, left to right: Richard Ryder, parliamentary secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip; Michael Portillo, chief secretary to the Treasury; Virginia Bottomley, health secretary; Sir Patrick Mayhew, Northern Ireland secretary; William Waldegrave, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and minister of the office of public services and science; David Hunt, employment secretary; Peter Brooke, national heritage secretary; Peter Lilley, social security secretary; Ian Lang, Scottish secretary; John Patten, education secretary; Gillian Shephard, agriculture, fisheries and food minister; John Redwood, Welsh secretary; Sir Robin Butler, cabinet secretary and head of the home Civil Service

Front row: Tony Newton, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the Commons; Malcolm Rifkind, defence secretary; Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade; Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor; Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor; John Major, Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary; Michael Howard, home secretary; John MacGregor, transport secretary; Lord Wakeham, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Lords; John Gummer, environment secretary

LOCAL AUTHORITY SPENDING POWER ROSTERS FOR 1994

The government claims that local government spending will rise by 2.3 per cent and that only seven local authorities face having to reduce their budgets to avoid capping as a result of the rate support levels announced yesterday (Ian Murray writes). The government figures say that 386 authorities will be able to increase their budget and 26 others will have to freeze theirs. The authorities, however, warn that the money on offer means that councils face their toughest financial year ever. The table shows the amount of money the government says each council should need to pay its bills next year and the amount of money that can be raised towards it through the council tax.				Population	Government guidelines (£million)	Council tax revenue (£million)
GREATER MANCHESTER						
GM Police Authority	2,672,686	157,253	39,946			
GM Fire & CD Authority	2,572,686	73,046	13,227			
Bolton	293,673	196,494	36,246			
Bury	118,046	132,684	7,703			
Manchester	431,140	415,690	59,374			
Oldham	220,347	168,108	29,574			
Salford	235,655	157,165	27,186			
Sheffield	232,479	175,078	30,444			
Stockport	291,053	174,952	46,401			
Trafford	221,059	149,477	29,476			
Wigan	217,139	145,655	34,474			
Worthington	308,148	202,064	39,953			
HAMPSHIRE						
Hampshire Police Authority	1,445,407	108,325	17,589			
Hampshire Fire & CD Authority	1,445,407	46,103	7,103			
Alton	155,126	141,609	17,949			
Liverpool	476,023	419,135	57,201			
Southdown	224,283	198,102	42,814			
Test Valley	181,476	128,055	23,927			
Wentworth	335,140	293,246	49,377			
SOUTH YORKSHIRE						
South Yorkshire Police Authority	2,831,828	89,568	15,806			
South Yorkshire Fire & CD Authority	2,831,828	31,372	8,347			
Doncaster	225,140	148,711	39,325			
Sheffield	253,675	223,050	37,577			
Thames Valley	253,675	176,529	32,391			
Walsley	300,679	371,102	70,491			
TYNE AND WEAR						
Northumbria Police Authority	1,442,519	82,061	17,599			
Northumbria Fire & CD Authority	1,442,519	35,594	5,549			
Newcastle upon Tyne	211,802	192,782	26,672			
North Shields	281,802	217,221	37,011			
South Shields	155,235	137,263	27,434			
Tyneside	157,222	117,670	21,525			
Wallsend	267,944	225,556	37,277			
WEST MIDLANDS						
West Midlands Police Authority	2,831,828	139,546	32,576			
West Midlands Fire & CD Authority	2,831,828	65,542	13,073			
Birmingham	1,008,356	864,514	129,353			
Coventry	304,240	222,719	40,008			
Dudley	211,518	192,685	43,534			
Edgbaston	238,571	224,476	37,925			
Leeds	201,136	121,832	34,275			
Leicester	253,053	197,193	34,535			
West Hampton	240,589	195,175	31,573			
WEST YORKSHIRE						
West Yorkshire Police Authority	2,093,320	120,672	26,420			
West Yorkshire Fire & CD Authority	2,093,320	55,546	10,607			
Calderdale	237,621	397,681	61,244			
Kirkstall	183,648	133,959	27,498			
Leeds	383,074	254,858	53,053			
Leigh	721,422	500,640	101,456			
Walsley	317,468	211,045	41,284			
AVON						
Bath	63,872	8,904	2,254			
Bristol	398,293	48,515	9,439			
Gloucestershire	91,193	6,610	2,298			
Northampton	135,659	10,947	3,355			
North Devon	80,643	8,215	2,295			
North Somerset	180,444	15,031	5,046			
CAMBRIDGESHIRE						
Cambridge	111,180	12,878	2,722			
East Cambridgeshire	61,215	5,423	1,700			
Fenland	77,030	7,890	1,630			
North Cambridgeshire	149,215	12,307	3,889			
Peterborough	156,806	18,211	4,236			
South Cambridgeshire	122,725	10,123	3,648			
CHESHIRE						
Cheshire	119,543	11,554	3,278			
Cheshire East	58,057	6,178	2,232			
Cheshire West & Chester	107,718	9,036	2,956			
Cheshire North	61,271	7,234	1,959			
Cheshire South	124,855	13,482	4,768			
Cheshire East	151,018	11,723	3,405			
Cheshire West	114,159	9,896	3,			
Warrington	184,071	16,040	4,508			
CLEVELAND						
Hartlepool	91,899	10,803	1,998			
Redcar and Cleveland	145,808	15,183	3,282			
South Cleveland	146,695	18,275	3,901			
Stockton-on-Tees	176,621	18,221	2,950			
CORNWALL						
Cornwall	77,815	7,402	2,114			
Devon	83,766	8,303	2,396			
Gloucestershire	98,029	9,285	2,523			
Kent	74,901	8,222	2,116			
North Cornwall	59,517	6,291	1,890			
Penryn	87,854	8,634	2,216			
CUMBERLAND						
Cumbria	95,836	9,867	2,926			
Derbyshire	73,543	7,360	1,833			
Derbyshire	102,742	10,186	2,380			
Derbyshire	71,762	7,107	1,589			
Derbyshire	46,407	4,779	1,311			
Derbyshire	96,801	8,781	3,135			
DERBYSHIRE						
Derbyshire	113,040	9,156	2,817			
Derbyshire	71,571	8,005	1,555			
Derbyshire	100,637	9,365	2,312			
Derbyshire	227,120	25,400	5,043			
Derbyshire	88,410	8,132	2,044			
Derbyshire	107,412	9,063	2,504			
Derbyshire	86,649	7,250	2,227			
Derbyshire	90,046	8,037	2,357			
Derbyshire	73,594	6,134	1,825			
DEVON						
Devon	118,129	10,593	3,826			
Devon	108,459	11,177	2,913			
Devon	84,805	6,202	1,810			
Devon	85,706	8,896	2,342			
Devon	257,542	26,519	5,608			
Devon	76,498	7,432	2,116			
Devon	111,333	10,559	3,361			
Devon	121,675	12,398	3,361			
Devon	63,440	5,392	1,434			
Devon	48,964	4,513	1,340			
DORSET						
Dorset	159,241	18,180	4,432			
Dorset	41,694	3,851	1,497			
Dorset	79,419	6,039	2,693			
Dorset	54,106	4,919	1,556			
Dorset	136,221	11,210	3,876			
Dorset	43,765	4,230	1,345			
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Dorset	54,106	4,919	1,556			
Dorset	136,221	11,210	3,876			
Dorset	43,765	4,230	1,345			
Dorset	87,298	8,067	2,799			
Dorset	62,409	5,199	1,570			
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Dorset	159,241	18,180	4,432			
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Major faces backbench revolt

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN Major is facing a backbench revolt against the local government review and the prime minister's insistence that shire councils should be abolished regardless of local opinion.

Many Tory MPs are concerned about reform plans, which aim where possible to replace the existing two-tier county and district structure with unitary authorities, will cause open warfare between councils and districts. They are worried that this biggest reform of local government for more than 20 years will drastically increase local council bills in the run-up to the next election and will cause a backlash among voters who are loyal to their old county councils.

On Wednesday the environment minister, David Curry, was attacked by all sides of the House when he tried to answer Tory MP David Nicholson's question on the progress of the reorganisation. Mr Nicholson, the MP for Taunton, said he

thought the public were confused about the issue. He was supported by Conservative backbenchers who wanted guarantees that councils would not be forced into mergers against their will.

the fight against man will be fought by the machine," he said. "I am not a socialist, I am a pragmatist." Mr Nicholson said that the Eastleigh in Hampshire, yesterday called it an explosive issue. He said "the transitional costs across the country could cost up to £1 billion and add more than £30 to people's bills. In Hampshire the two-tier system is very efficient. It has been in existence longer than Parliament and shouldn't be tampered with."

Mr Nicholson said: "I desperately hope that ministers will pay attention to MPs who can all see the difficulties caused by abolishing two tiers, particularly in rural areas where an intermediate tier is useful for administering care in the community, education, transport and

Sir John Banham, chairman of the Local Government Commission, which is study-

ing ways in local government can be reformed, has said he will have no pity for "the army of arm-twisting and axe-grinding special pleaders".

John Gummer, the environment secretary, realising that

The European Policy Forum yesterday published a document, *A Crisis in Credibility*, which has added to fears. The author, Steve Leach, senior lecturer in local government studies at the University of Birmingham, said: "The impetus for change has long disappeared... Even the commissioners are getting worried. Local authorities will have strong grounds for challenging its recommendations in the courts because of inconsistency in its approach."

£1.25bn for apprentice scheme

**BY ROBERT MORGAN
POLITICAL STAFF**

THE government is to provide £1.25 billion over the next three years to start up the apprenticeship scheme announced by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, on Tuesday.

In the Commons yesterday during the continuing Budget debate, David Hunt, the employment secretary, said he had invited employers and the trade unions as well as training organisations to put forward proposals and he offered talks to other political parties which have ideas on how their apprenticeships should be improved.

Mr Hunt hopes that 16-and 17-year-old school leavers will be able to take up places in 1995, but he wants to get pilot schemes running next year. He ruled out the old-style time-serving apprenticeship and said that the training period would depend on the industry.

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TOKEN

مكتبة الأصل

Europe picks apart its costly welfare safety net

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

THROUGHOUT Europe, from the whitewashed corridors of model Swedish hospitals to neglected old age homes in Italy, the welfare state is beginning to crack.

Peter Lilley's cuts in Britain — nearly 200,000 people will be disqualified from state benefit because of the Budget measures — raised barely an eyebrow on the Continent. Not because the Europeans have taken offence at the social security secretary's recent multilingual attacks on foreign welfare claimants but rather because the crisis has hit all modern, developing societies at more or less the same time.

Sweden, once the model welfare state, has cut unemployment benefits, reduced sick pay and put up medical charges. Belgium is trying to overhaul its social security programme, and Germany, to cries of outrage from the unions, has made the first cuts in welfare spending since the second world war.

In France, the government of Edouard Balladur has been lowering monthly pension payments and has declared that the French must work for

■ Cries of alarm are being raised as governments cut benefits to the sick, elderly and unemployed. Politicians are failing to explain priorities or find a new vision



Balladur: government is cutting pension payments

40 years before qualifying for a full pension, a move that disposes of the idea that people can retire at the age of 60.

The impact of these steps is all the greater because of the recession. Unemployment in Europe is edging quickly towards the 20 million mark and the welfare system has never been more needed. Italian public sector workers,

whose jobs were always regarded as secure for life, may soon be laid off.

At Volkswagen, the most patriarchal of German companies, workers have been given the choice of accepting 30,000 redundancies or a four-day working week. The unions, nervous about the scaling down of unemployment payments, have eagerly agreed to the shorter week and a smaller wage packet.

The mood everywhere is chilly. German building workers are furious as the government is planning to abolish "bad weather" money, a state subsidy that ensures workers are not laid off or unpaid when the winter weather prevents construction work. And throughout the Ruhr there is discontent about the reform of the unemployment system.

Until now Germans received benefits equivalent to two-thirds of their previous income for the rest of their normal working life. This will

now be reduced to a four-year period. After that, only subsistence-level payments will be made to the unemployed. With four million Germans facing unemployment next year — many of whom have been jobless for two years — this is bad news. In particular it is making the steel industry fight tooth and nail to retain capacity and resist cheap East European imports.

The prime factor for the welfare crisis is demographic. North European countries are ageing fast and working less. The French government is saving a great deal of money simply by reducing coverage for medicines and telling doctors to be more restrained in prescribing expensive drugs.

The problem is that much of Europe's welfare system is taken for granted by beneficiaries who find it as difficult as the politicians to order new priorities. Who is willing to give up what for whom?

It is political leaders who should be framing the choices, but their standing in West Europe has never been lower and their ability to trigger or lead debate has melted away over the past two troubled years.

Welfare, page 10



Jill Barad, head of the US firm which makes Barbie dolls, presenting a Paris waxworks museum with a Barbie dressed by Christian Dior to mark the doll's 35th anniversary

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK puts curbs on Nigeria

Britain is to expel four Nigerian military students from Britain, curb arms exports to the country and impose restrictions on defence officials at the Nigerian embassy in London (Michael Binyon writes). The measures are to put pressure on Nigeria to restore democracy.

Aidid boost

Addis Ababa: Somalia's most powerful warlord, Muhammad Farrah Aidid, boosted peace hopes by ending a boycott and flying to talks with his rival, Ali Mahdi. (Reuters)

Terror link

Caracas: Nicaraguan police are hunting an accused Red Brigade terrorist involved in the 1978 kidnapping and murder of former Italian prime minister Aldo Moro, after new evidence surfaced in Rome.

Benefit doubts

New York: Texas officials scuppered plans by Apple Computer to build a million office complex because the firm pays health benefits to unmarried partners of staff, including homosexuals.

Political capers earn contempt of Muscovites

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

There is Yegor Gaidar, the radical reformer, on Channel One, delivering punchy lines about the necessity of deep and lasting change, inter-cut with footage of rock bands and young faces turned in hopeful anticipation. On Channel Two, the vulpine Arkadi Volsky, champion of military-industrial interests, hectors his audience on the need for higher output.

The parliamentary elections to be held on Sunday week are the first experience Russia's politicians have had of Western-style campaigning. Russia's Choice, featuring candidates such as Mr Gaidar, the economics minister, and Andrei Kozyrev, the foreign minister, is using its full-time staff to produce a slick party image. But most of

limiting the powers of the legislature and strengthening the presidency.

The votes on parliament and the constitution are being held simultaneously and, although there is some reserve about the supremacy the new basic law would give the president, it is likely to achieve majority support from Russians who crave constitutional stability.

The task of Russia's Choice is to secure the constitution for Mr Yeltsin. It is sure of winning the biggest share of the vote and the real interest is in the sort of coalition it will form. But as the electioneering grinds on, and the viewers become increasingly impatient, the parties of the far left and far right are capturing interest and both are hovering



RUSSIAN ELECTION

near the 5 per cent hurdle for entry to parliament. "Did you see Zhirinovskiy (the neo-fascist leader of the Liberal-Democratic party) last night?" a man on the Metro enquired. "No messing about. Straight to the point. Gave me something to think about." Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, large, unkempt and usually unshaven, wants to "restore holy Russia's fortunes" by ridding it of Jews, Caucasians, Westerners and speculators, and would solve street crime by having police shoot suspected offenders to "save unnecessary court cases".

Gennadi Zhuganov, the Communist Party's leading candidate, cannot compete with such rhetorical flair, but he has come up with the most original message: he instructed viewers to cast their vote for him because there are fewer Soviet-era communists in the Communist Party than in the present government.

Letters, page 21

Mayoral frontrunner worked for Stasi

FROM REUTER IN POTSDAM

A FRONTRUNNING candidate for mayor of Potsdam admitted yesterday that he had worked for the East German security police, an unusually candid confession ahead of Sunday's municipal elections in Brandenburg state.

Rolf Kutzmuß of the reformed communist Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) told a news conference he had signed onto the Stasi payroll as an informant in sharp contrast to hundreds of other eastern German politicians who since the Berlin Wall opened in 1989 have tried to hide or play down any involve-

ment they had with the hated security police. "I've told voters all along through the campaign about my contact with the Stasi," said Herr Kutzmuß, who said he ran under the slogan: "My biography didn't start in 1989."

Herr Kutzmuß, who is expected to win enough votes in Sunday's election to force a run-off election with the Social Democrats (SPD), is considered one of the PDS's best hopes of winning a key office. During the four decades of communist rule in East Germany, the Stasi had a huge network of informants and played a key role in suppressing dissent.

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Typical Example: assumes a first time buyers' variable rate of 4.6% in year 1 and a variable rate of 7.6% thereafter. Monthly payment £201.25 in year 1 and £332.50 thereafter all net of income tax at the basic rate. APR 7.9% (variable). Total Amount Payable (TAP) £175901. Typical Example: Fixed rate assumes a First Time Buyer's fixed rate of 5.25% in years 1 and 2 and a variable rate of 7.60% thereafter. Monthly payment £229.69 in years 1 and 2 and £332.50 thereafter. All net of income tax at the basic rate. APR 7.7% (variable). Total amount payable £174,993. A couple (male and female), non-smokers, aged 25, applying for a £60,000 endowment mortgage over 25 years on a purchase price of £100,000. A typical monthly endowment premium £86 (variable). 300 mortgage and endowment payments. Interest charges, capital repayments, Solicitor's mortgage costs £100 (assumes same Solicitor acts for both the Society and the borrower), redemption fees of £67 and Room Cover buildings premiums for 25 years (an example of an average Room Cover buildings monthly premium would be £11.38) are included in the TAP indicated. New rates effective for existing borrowers 1st January 1994. Only the first application fee is free, any subsequent applications will be subject to the normal fee. The maximum advance is 60% of the purchase price or valuation whichever is the lower. Payments must be made by Direct Debit for the term of the discount. All mortgages are subject to approval of an applicant's financial standing and valuation of the property. Security over your property and in some cases over a suitable life policy will be required. Mortgage loans are not available to persons under 18 years of age. All loans for wholly or partial business purposes do not qualify for this offer. For loans exceeding 75% an additional charge will be made. Nationwide Building Society is an Appointed Representative of Guardian Royal Exchange marketing group (members of which are Members of Lloyds and IMRO) only for the purposes of advising on and selling life insurance, pension, unit trust and personal equity plan products issued by Guardian Royal Exchange. MPC is underwritten by Guardian Royal Exchange. Written quotations available on request from Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon L, SN38 1NW. Nationwide is a member of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme and conforms to the Code of Banking Practice.

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Hopes grow that Gatt deal will be agreed on time

FROM JAMES LANDALE IN BRUSSELS

HOPES for a successful conclusion to the latest round of world trade talks rose sharply yesterday as European and American negotiators reported that significant and substantive progress had been made. However, they warned that much work had still to be done and that "nothing was agreed until everything was agreed".

Officials on both sides will now work through the weekend so that final agreement can be reached on Monday when Sir Leon Brittan, the European trade commissioner, and Mickey Kantor, the American trade representative, meet again in Brussels.

Sir Leon said that after two days of intensive talks here on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade with Mr Kantor, they were "in the final straight". But he said that a lot could happen "before we reach the final post".

"We have made good

Nafta approval

Ottawa: The Canadian government announced that it will enforce the North American Free Trade Agreement after obtaining improved rules on subsidies and dumping. Jean Chrétien, prime minister, who had threatened not to enact implementing legislation without the changes, said Canada will proclaim the law passed by parliament. (Reuters)

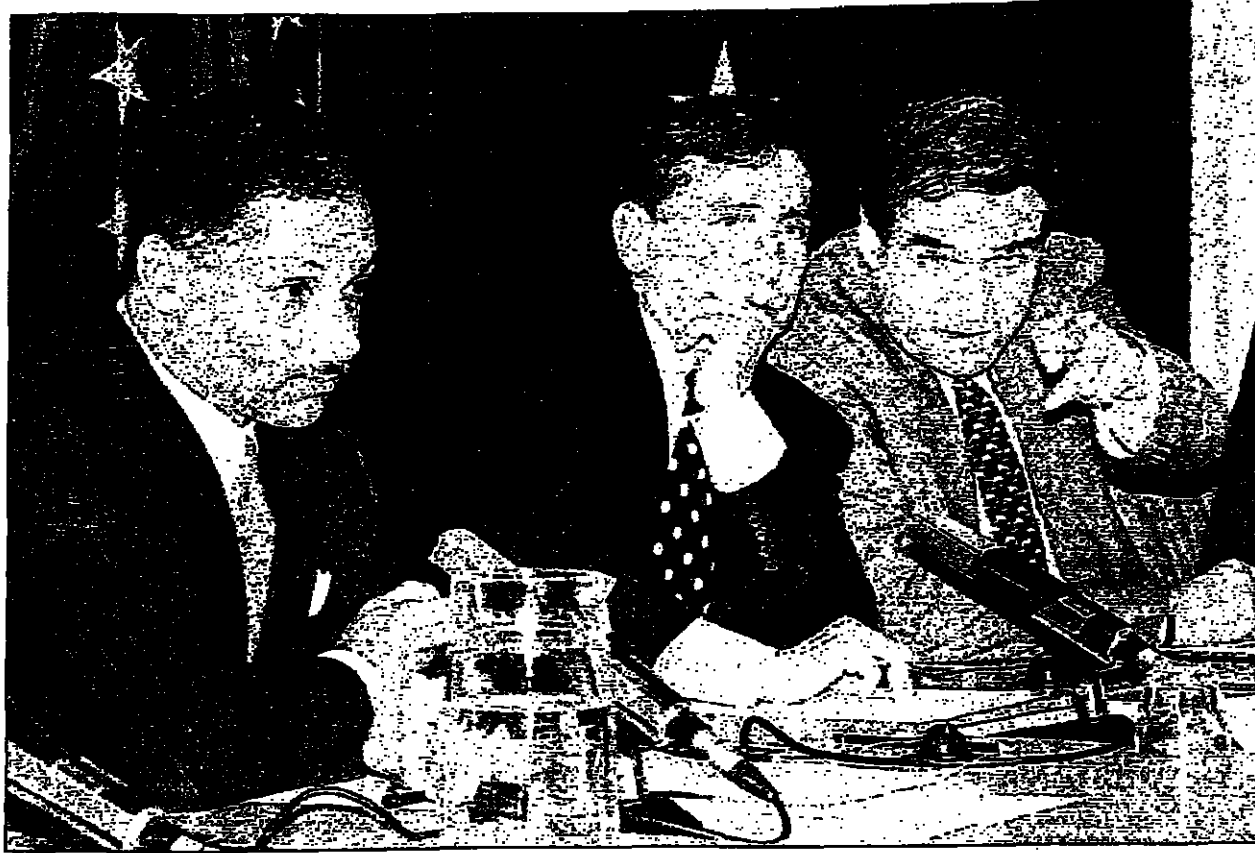
progress and we are now beginning to see the outline of a final package between the EC and the US, but there is still a lot of detail to be discussed," Mr Brittan said. The talks on Monday, he said, would "flesh out" the outlines of what had already been agreed and reach consensus on the areas not yet resolved.

Mr Kantor said: "We have an agreed-upon approach to all major issues that would pave the way to completion of a substantive and comprehensive Uruguay Round." However, he added: "We have hard work and difficult negotiations remaining."

The talks were given impetus by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, who warned Nato ministers here that the future of the defence alliance depended strongly on a successful Gatt round.

Mr Kantor said outline agreements had been reached in most areas, including the thorny question of cuts in EC agricultural exports. However, it is thought that the main sticking points were the inclusion of the audiovisual sector in the agreement, and the number of measures the US uses to prevent the dumping of cheap goods on its markets.

Mike Espy, the US agricul-



Trading concessions yesterday were, from left, Mike Espy and Mickey Kantor of America, and Sir Leon Brittan

ture secretary, said he was "very optimistic" about the prospect of improved market access for American agricultural products in Europe. "I believe we have found a way to ensure that our farmers will benefit from significant mar-

ket access opportunities in Europe in commodities like grains, meat, dairy products and specialty crops that are critical to farmers in the United States," he said.

Although this is likely to anger the French, it could be

one side of a bargain which allows modification of the Blair House accord, which reduced subsidised European agricultural exports to America. This would satisfy the demands of French farmers. Both trade negotiators said

any agreement was still only a part of a wider trade deal which included the other 113 Gatt countries. "It is essential for the other nations to come forward now with their best efforts to complete the Gatt round," Mr Kantor said.

Ministers take a twin-track approach to East

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

NATO is moving towards a twin-track approach to its former Warsaw Pact enemies in the East based on closer co-operation with Russia and heavy pressure on Ukraine to give up its nuclear weapons.

In Kiev, however, President Kravchuk of Ukraine appealed to the West yesterday not to put pressure on his country to get rid of its former Soviet nuclear arsenal. "Other states must understand that, if we move gradually, taking account of our situation, we shall [disarm]," he said, adding: "We should not have to take a decision on our knees."

Nato developed a rough agreement on its approach to the East at a meeting of foreign ministers in Brussels yesterday. The new strategy will be launched at an alliance summit, to be attended by President Clinton, in January.

All 16 governments, including Germany, which has pressed in the past for rapid inclusion of East European states in Nato, now accept that expanding Nato to the East would upset relations with Russia. Eastern countries will be offered instead "partnerships for peace" that do not exclude future membership.

Russia will be encouraged to become one of the first partners, joining military planning with Nato officers at the alliance's military headquarters in Mons, Belgium, and organising joint exercises with Western forces. "A strong relationship between Russia and Nato is essential to the security of Europe," Douglas Hurd told the meeting of ministers.

The foreign secretary also told his colleagues that Ukraine's failure to rid itself of its nuclear weapons was



Kravchuk: seeks easing of pressure over arms

worrying and that Nato should send a "message for Ukraine about the need for swift action".

Yesterday's meeting also discussed Moscow's recent diplomatic offensive designed to secure Western approval for Russian military intervention in conflicts on or near its borders. "We can't say in a general way that Russian peacekeeping in the former Soviet Union is OK," one minister said. "They want us to pay for it and to baptise intervention under a respectable name. We're not going to do that."

Bosnia set for another winter war

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN GENEVA

THE war in Bosnia seemed fated to continue throughout the winter last night, as the latest peace talks here were likely to end in a round of bitter recriminations.

Bosnian government officials yesterday accused Lord Owen, the co-chairman of the peace talks and the European Union's representative, of ignoring his mandate to secure the return of extra territories, seized by the Bosnian Serbs, to the Muslim-led government.

"It is up to the representatives of the EU to make sure that the mandate is not marginalised. If they allow the discussions to go in that direction, they have to bear the responsibility," said Mohamed Sacirbey. "We have been true to the mandate 100 per cent ... but we have not found the Serbs to be forthcoming and we have not found sufficient support from the mediators."

They said negotiations had been repeatedly steered instead towards the division of Sarajevo, which Bosnian officials described as "repugnant", and Mr Sacirbey denied a claim by the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, that agreement had been reached on division of the city.

Mr Sacirbey said: "We followed the agenda which had been set by the mediators. It was that everything was on the table and to be discussed, including Sarajevo. But all of the discussions have focused on Sarajevo without resolve, and worst of all no concessions have been made on the viability of our territories in eastern and western Bosnia."

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said on Monday the key issue was to get the Bosnian Serbs to concede territory.

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A press ad, as seen on TV.

To screen a 30 second commercial in front of the mass audience (25 million adults) just once - and once only - will cost the advertiser around £220,000 (£340,000 when you include production).

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That's £4,000 per second. We're not talking here about a mini-epic, just an average commercial.

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It's baffling how any 60 seconds of celluloid can cost such vast sums when the BBC can make a whole hour of TV drama for a relatively meagre £400,000.

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Rabin to press on with Palestinian handover as Arafat seeks big-power mediation

Christopher sets out to rescue Israeli-PLO deal

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

WARREN Christopher, the American Secretary of State, will have his diplomatic and negotiating skills tested to the limit when he arrives here today at the start of a week-long visit to put the Middle East peace process back on the rails.

Although Mr Christopher had expected to concentrate his efforts on persuading Syria to enter dialogue with Israel, he will have to work to salvage the Israeli agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, soured by a vicious cycle of violence and deadlocked negotiations that have dampened many of the hopes awakened by the historic accord.

From Tunis, the PLO yesterday attacked Israel's military operations in the occupied territories, gave warning that the peace talks were deadlocked and called for the "urgent intervention of the joint sponsors (America and Russia)" to guarantee that the agreement signed in Washington on September 13 would be implemented.

"The PLO warns that the Israeli practices and policies

which deserve strong disapproval and condemnation need the urgent intervention of the co-sponsors of the peace process and the international community to guarantee implementation of the agreement," a PLO statement said.

In a blow to the symbolism that has so far been the main achievement of the agreement, Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, also announced that he would not travel to take up residence in Jericho in the West Bank early next year if Israel refused to hand over control of the crossing-point into the Palestinian autonomy zone from neighbouring Jordan. The PLO had been planning to transfer many of its administrative organs to Jericho where property prices have soared. Control of the border crossings is a contentious issue, because Israel regards it as necessary to check both the number and identity of Palestinians crossing into the semi-autonomous areas. The sides are also in disagreement over the size of the Palestinian-controlled area around Jericho, and a demand for a general amnes-

ty for 10,000 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails and camps.

Although, when the negotiations opened in October, Israelis and Palestinians were prepared to offer concessions as confidence-building measures, their positions have since hardened as a direct result of renewed violence which has left 31 Palestinians and 15 Israelis dead and shaken public confidence in the agreement.

At face value, the tense atmosphere in Israel and the occupied territories does not augur well for Mr Christopher, whose arrival is bound to provoke fresh acts by militant groups on both sides opposed to the peace accord.

News reports in Israel even suggested that the Israeli and PLO leaders had agreed in private to postpone the start of the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho beyond the December 13 deadline.

However, in Borna Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, denied clinching a deal with Mr Arafat to delay the withdrawal. On the latest pit



A Jewish settler, mourning the death of two of his comrades, praying near burning tyres on the Hebron-Jerusalem road yesterday

stop of a European tour, he emphasised, however, that it "would be no tragedy" if the deadline for withdrawal — December 13 — was allowed to slip a little.

Despite the fierce civil unrest in the Israeli-occupied territories, Mr Rabin said he

was determined to press ahead with the peace plan with the PLO — "as long as we have a majority of even one in the Knesset". Mr Rabin appears to have been edging back from the December 13 deadline for the past few days. This, in turn, has stirred up

trouble for Mr Arafat. It is considered possible that the parties could still meet their timetable, if the visiting Mr Christopher can help break the deadlock at the talks in time for the key meeting between Mr Rabin and Mr Arafat on December 12,

where the two leaders could still pull off a last-minute deal.

Last night Nabil Shaath, the PLO's chief negotiator with Israel, flew from Cairo to Tunis to receive fresh instructions for the next and crucial round of talks provisionally

scheduled to open in Cairo on Sunday.

□ Dig halted: The Israeli Antiquities Authority yesterday ended a search for Dead Sea scrolls after being accused of plundering treasures before parts of the West Bank fall under PLO rule. (AFP)

Brazilian MPs shaken by corruption claims

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BUENOS AIRES

A MAN accused of hiring assassins to murder his wife, who had threatened to disclose his crooked deals, has shaken the Brazilian government with confessions alleging a corruption ring said to involve a third of the country's legislators.

His claims, made from a dingy prison cell in the capital, Brasilia, triggered an enquiry that threatens to unearth Brazil's biggest scandal in years.

It calls into question the administration of President Franco, a year after Fernando Collor de Mello, the former president, was impeached for corruption. A parliamentary commission, set up last month to investigate the claims made by the former treasury official, has accused 100 congressmen, senators and former ministers of involvement in a multi-million-pound bribery scheme.

Jose dos Santos, who twice tried to commit suicide in

prison, claims that he took bribes from several of the legislators and that the treasury department covered up corrupt deals. Senhor dos Santos is accused of murdering his wife and burying her in a field after police found her body about 37 miles outside Brasilia this week. The police also uncovered cocaine and more than \$1 million (£675,000) in Senhor dos Santos's garage.

"At first he seemed a dubious witness," Jarbas Passarinho, president of the parliamentary investigating commission, said. But the accusations have apparently been "verified by a wider investigation", he added.

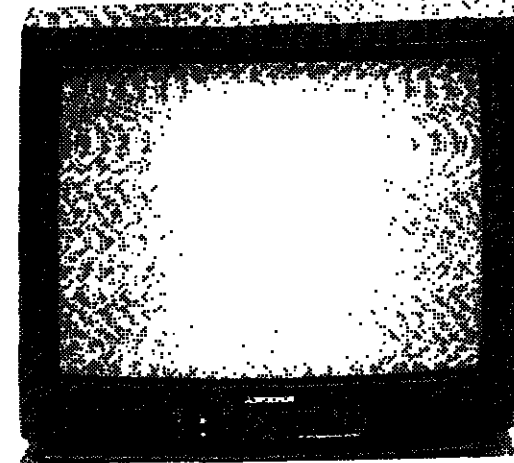
The commission has claimed that former ministers and MPs laundered public funds in foreign bank accounts. Among those accused is Joao Alves, a congressman and former director of the tax and budget department, who is accused of hiding \$32 million

in secret accounts since 1988. When questioned about the money, he claimed he had won it in a lottery with "God's help".

The commission has also said that more than 100 legislators received bribes from a Brazilian building firm, paying out monthly salaries to key officials in exchange for contracts. "For the first time we have got our hands on documents that prove how companies operate by influence-peddling," Senhor Passarinho said.

"Public protest got rid of one corrupt president. Sadly recent allegations have again dashed hopes in politicians. It is something which is endemic in the whole system," Senhor Passarinho added. Investigating commission members say that, although the previous scandal brought down a president, the present one touches most of the country's power structures.

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This Friday The THES analyses the effects of Tuesday's budget on Britain's universities and students.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Burundi refugees face death

Refugees from ethnic fighting in Burundi will begin dying of starvation within days unless they get supplies, the Médecins sans Frontières agency said yesterday (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

More than 700,000 people who fled the fighting are facing death in refugee camps in Tanzania, Rwanda and Zaire. "Members of families are going back to Burundi to look for food in the village they left," an aid worker said.

Pilot erred

Paris: A pilot with Air Inter, a French domestic airline, whose jet nearly crashed after he accidentally turned off both engines on a flight to Lourdes, has been suspended. (AP)

Suspect freed

Brescia: Diego Curto, formerly head of Milan's commercial court and the most senior judicial figure implicated in Italy's corruption scandal, was released after the limit on his detention order expired. (Reuters)

Rights denied

Geneva: Handicapped people throughout the world are denied equal rights, sometimes killed as babies and sexually abused, and their numbers are growing, a UN report says. (AP)

Man mauled

Anchorage: A polar bear crashed through a window and mauled a man at a radar station in Oliktok, Alaska. The victim was said to be critical but stable. (Reuters)

Clinton to review defence needs as Korea tension rises

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon confirmed yesterday that it was considering ways of strengthening American forces in South Korea against a possible attack by North Korea if the world's last Stalinist regime is confronted by UN sanctions.

With the North Koreans refusing to open their nuclear plants to international inspection and denouncing Washington almost daily, President Clinton is due to review before the weekend with Les Aspin, the defence secretary, and John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Pentagon's ability to defend South Korea.

The Pentagon said it was engaged in prudent contingency planning. "We have always been conscious of the fact that imposing sanctions runs the risk of uncertain North Korean reaction."

On Tuesday night James Woolsey, the CIA director, said that a North Korean offensive could not be ruled out. In Tokyo on Wednesday, Admiral Charles Larson, commander of American forces in the Pacific, said a war between North and South Korea would be costly but added: "The South would win. There would not be a victory option for North Korea."

Pyongyang retorted last night that remarks such as Mr Woolsey's were intended "to push the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war", but said that America was making a big mistake if it believed North Korea would capitulate in the face of such pressure. "No coercion or threat can solve anything," it said in a defiant statement.

North Korea had earlier this week handed over the remains of 33 American soldiers killed in the Korean war, a move that could be construed as conciliatory. Next week the North Koreans have promised to return the remains of 31 more American servicemen and allied servicemen.

In March, North Korea

Amid talk of possible war over Pyongyang's resistance to inspection of its nuclear plants, the Pentagon is planning to bolster US forces in South Korea

gave notice it would withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty but suspended its decision after talks with the United States. But this week it declared it would never yield to American pressure to open its nuclear sites for inspection and was prepared to suffer sanctions or even war. A round of talks between North Korean and American officials was to have taken place last month, but was suspended

Atomic agency 'in the dark'

Vienna: The International Atomic Energy Agency cannot guarantee that North Korea is using nuclear plants and material solely for peaceful purposes. Hans Blix, the agency's director-general, said Mr Blix said that without regular checks the agency was unable to satisfy itself that Pyongyang had declared all its nuclear material. Officials say that North Korea may be declared in breach of the safeguards agreement by the new year. (Reuters)

indefinitely after American officials said no progress had been made.

President Clinton and Kim Young Sam, his South Korean counterpart, last month said they were prepared to discuss with the North a "thorough, broad approach" to resolving the deadlock. But they failed to announce an expected initiative at their summit after press reports that Mr Clinton's aides had urged him to accept the North's "package deal" proposal. On Tuesday, reaffirming calls for a "package

solution." Pyongyang threatened again to withdraw from NPT unless the United States renewed high-level talks.

America has 37,000 servicemen in South Korea, but the North Koreans have about 700,000 troops massed along the border. Pentagon simulations have suggested that they would swiftly overwhelm the South's defences in the event of war.

The Pentagon remains publicly confident that superior allied air power would prevail, but options it is said to be considering include the dispatch of more troops and air force squadrons to South Korea. The Pentagon is also weighing the deployment of Patriot air-defence batteries to counter North Korean Scud missiles, moving an aircraft carrier closer to the peninsula and the increased use of spy satellites.

The Clinton administration remains determined to resolve the confrontation over North Korea's nuclear ambitions through diplomatic means if possible. Last week Mr Clinton offered Pyongyang talks on a package of inducements, including economic aid and eventual diplomatic recognition, if it first permitted the resumption of nuclear inspections.

However, North Korea has yet to respond to that offer and time is running out. The International Atomic Energy Agency must soon declare its inability to monitor North Korea's nuclear activities, leaving America with little choice but to press for UN sanctions. Washington officials have suggested these would be graduated to reduce the likelihood of North Korean military action and to win the support of China, Japan and South Korea.

FBI clouds triumph of shuttle launch

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

IN AN embarrassing coincidence of timing, on the day NASA finally got one of its biggest prestige projects off the ground, the launch of the Endeavour space shuttle, news has leaked of an FBI fraud and bribery investigation into several of the space agency's employees.

The mission to the faulty Hubble telescope counts as one of NASA's most ambitious undertakings since the Apollo landing on the Moon. Its success is seen as crucial if NASA is to continue to attract funds from Congress after a series of recent setbacks.

Yesterday's news of the fraud investigation confirms prejudices in Congress and among many Americans that NASA is over-stuffed, under-managed and corrupt. According to US television reports, the FBI conducted an undercover investigation, codenamed "Operation Lightning Strike", in which an agent posed as a businessman who bribed NASA employees to get a fake medical machine on to a space shuttle flight supposedly to increase its value.

The investigation took place in the summer and is said to have focused on several employees, including an astronaut. No charges have been brought yet.

P.J. Weitz, the interim director of the Johnson Space Centre in Houston, confirmed

that an FBI investigation had taken place, but said he had not been given details. He said there was "an investigation process" into "potential fraud, waste and abuse, or whatever you want to call it".

The leak of the investigation is likely to add to the growing sense of frustration and anger within Congress, where reluctance is growing to providing funds for space projects at a time of budgetary cuts in domestic programmes.

Endeavour took off early yesterday with seven astronauts on board to conduct a series of repairs to the Hubble

telescope, which was launched three years ago with an out-of-focus primary mirror. Endeavour is to rendezvous with the telescope, orbiting 370 miles from Earth, early tomorrow. The astronauts will then begin the first of at least five space walks of about six hours each.

Nowhere will the mission be followed with greater interest than in Congress. As the *New York Times* magazine said last Sunday about the do-or-die mission: "One small mis-step by the Hubble repairmen could mean one giant leap backward for space agency-kind."



Endeavour's crew of seven, including one woman, making their way to the shuttle's launch pad



Endeavour leaves a fiery trail in this time exposure of yesterday's launch to repair the Hubble telescope

Hollywood warlords feud over president's bash

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK

HELL hath no fury like a Hollywood film star snubbed, as President Clinton is discovering to his cost.

Tomorrow Mr Clinton arrives in Beverly Hills to attend two glamorous fund-raising events. Hollywood-meets-Washington extravaganzas where the rich and famous eat lots of canapés, shake hands with the president and write cheques. The occasions will be star-studded for sure, but the question of precisely which stars (and, for that matter, studs) have received

invitations is causing the sort of social cat-fight at which Hollywood excels.

Four hundred people, for example, have been invited to the first event at the headquarters of the Creative Artists Agency. They include such notables as Kevin Costner, Warren Beatty, Dustin Hoffman and Geena Davis, all of whom are clients of the agency. Clients represented by other agencies, however, have not been invited, prompting accusations of favouritism and discrimination.

The problem is that Hollywood, like Somalia, is ruled by competing warlords in the shape of entertainment

agents. By handing over control of the guest list to the agency, the Democratic National Committee immediately raised the socially sensitive hackles of other agencies and their clients.

The agency's principal rival, International Creative Management, represents such important Democrats-cum-celebrities as Richard Gere, Julia Roberts and Michelle Pfeiffer. None received invitations. "Whatever they are doing is their thing," Jeff Berg, chairman of ICM, told *The New York Times*. "We will do our thing at some later moment."

The party's organisers naturally

deny any favouritism, but in recent days the Democratic National Committee is said to have started issuing last-minute invitations to slighted celebrities in an effort to placate them.

Tomorrow's parties may be socially fraught, but they will be profitable. The Democrats expect to raise at least \$2 million (£1.3 million) from the two events. At the agency bash, "normal" guests pay \$1,000 a head while a select group of 60 "super-famous" people have been invited to pay \$2,500 for the privilege of talking to the president in an upstairs room and having a photograph taken in his company.

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Every day from November 18 to December 11, *The Times* is featuring the holidays organised by the participating tour operators in this offer. For full details, simply phone the Brochure Hotline or send a written request to *The Times* Brochure Service (see below). You may request as many free brochures as you wish. Getting your discount is so simple. Today and each day until Saturday, December 11, a special token will appear in *The Times* — 21 tokens in total. You need collect only ten tokens to qualify for your 20 per cent discount. The discount applies to any number of people booking on any one tour operator's booking form. If you choose to collect 20 tokens, you can use the additional ten on a second holiday.

● You can take your holiday(s) at any time from the beginning of January 1994 to the end of December 1994, and you can choose any number of holidays, providing you have collected ten tokens per holiday.

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● The offer is subject to the terms and conditions published in *The Times* on November 18.

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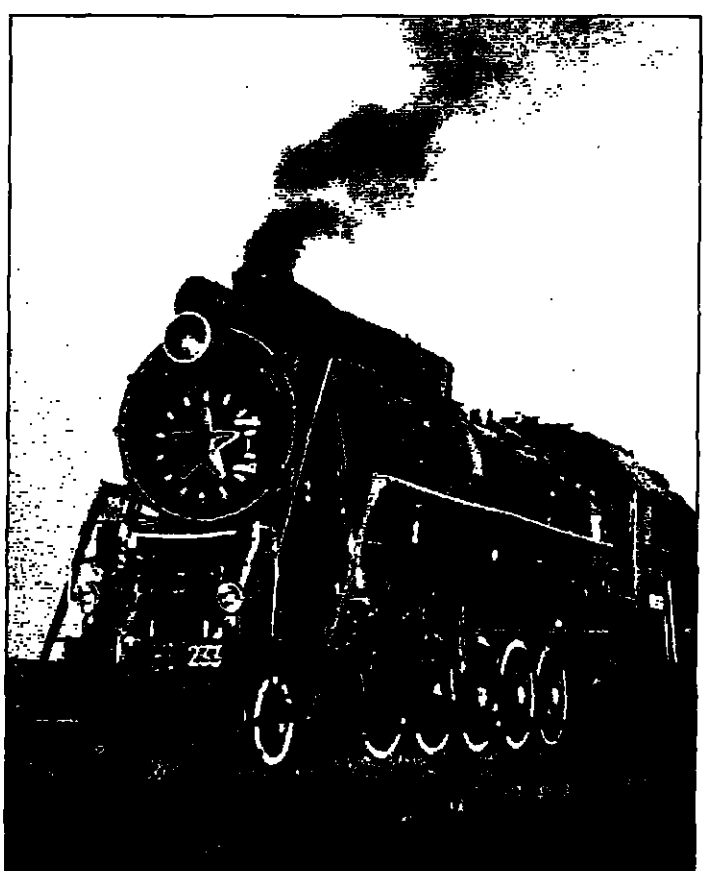
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Q: Are the operators bonded?
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Fighting talk sinks Japan's defence minister

FROM JOANNA PITMAN
IN TOKYO

KEISUKE Nakanishi, the Japanese defence minister, was forced to resign last night after his public reference to a possible future amendment of the country's pacifist constitution was deemed inappropriate by the ruling coalition government and opposition parties. The affair illustrates the policy inconsistencies of a country still seeking a political role on the international stage.

Mr Nakanishi is being replaced by Kazuo Aichi, 56, a member of the Renewal Party. He has served as director-general of the environment agency, deputy foreign minister and chairman of the lower house security committee.

Earlier this week Mr Nakanishi

Japan's search for a world role has been highlighted by the resignation of the defence minister. His offence was to suggest that the country's troops might one day serve in combat with the UN

raised the question of a revision of the constitution to allow Japanese troops a wider role when serving abroad under the auspices of the United Nations. His comment was judged to be an unforgivable breach of the long-established taboo that has effectively prevented debate over whether Japan's 1946 constitution should be amended to suit the realities of today's world.

Article 9 of the constitution states that "land, sea and air forces as well

as other war potential will never be maintained". The foundation in 1954 of Japan's Self-Defence Force was a clear departure from the letter of the constitution, as was the decision in parliament last year to send men to serve in the UN's Cambodian peace-keeping operation.

Mr Nakanishi was forced to retract his call for a further reinterpretation of Article 9 to allow Japanese troops to join those of other nations under the UN in combat zones. After mem-

bers of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party and the Communist Party came together in a rare show of co-operation to organise a protest boycott of parliamentary debate on political reform yesterday, he withdrew his earlier statement that "it is wrong to cling with religious zeal to a document written half a century ago". Last night he said: "I now feel that my responsibility for getting parliamentary deliberations stalled was grave."

Morihiro Hosokawa, the prime minister, who heads a seven-party coalition government, has been embarrassed by the incident, which comes at a sensitive time. The flagging economy increasingly demands his attention, as does the reform legislation.

□ Tyeoon ill: Aki Morita, 72, who

started Sony, Japan's giant consumer electronics corporation, with a £350 investment at the end of the second world war, has suffered a cerebral haemorrhage and will be forced to give up his business activities.

He collapsed after a game of tennis on Tuesday and was taken to hospital in Tokyo, where he underwent surgery. He is in intensive care and, according to company officials, unable to speak.

Mr Morita had already handed over the day-to-day running of the company to Norio Ohga, his president, but he remained involved in several Sony projects as he remodelled his role into something of a spokesman for Japan in the world. His withdrawal from the £15 billion corporation will mark the end of an era for Sony.

Patten goes it alone with modest list of reforms

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

AFTER 17 rounds and 160 hours of Anglo-Chinese negotiations on the future of Hong Kong, Chris Patten said yesterday that China's stonewalling had gone on too long and that on Wednesday week he will introduce to the Legislative Council the most modest parts of his plan for wider democracy in the colony.

The governor's initial plans involve lowering the voting age to 18, making arrangements for the three elections to be held next year and in 1995, including voting on a "single vote, single seat" basis, and abolishing appointed seats for local councils.

Peking had suggested negotiating those matters and had jibbed only at the idea of including the question of how to vote for the council in the first stage of talks. In a sense, the British have made off with a Chinese idea and handed it over to the council, which may well pass it.

Peking's response was that future negotiations — which Britain has already offered — are under serious threat. Wu Jianmin, its foreign ministry spokesman, hearing of Mr Patten's unilateral intentions, replied: "If that is the case, that would mean the breakdown of the talks." He gave a warning that economic ties

with Britain would also suffer. In Brussels, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said last night Britain wanted to continue talks with China. "We hope it will be possible to continue discussion with the Chinese on the other matters."

British officials in Hong Kong pointed out that China has made similar threats on trade before, refusing last March to conduct negotiations with Britain if Mr Patten even tabled his plan for wider democracy before the Legislative Council, and then agreeing to talk even while denouncing the plan.

Mr Patten himself, after assuring the council that Britain would never walk away from the talks, said on hearing Peking's threats that he would be surprised if China would jeopardise its entry to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade by harming Hong Kong's economy. Other officials said that Hong Kong people would then see who was responsible for upsetting the colony's stability.

After Mr Patten's session with the council, Anson Chan, his new chief secretary, or deputy governor, noted that, although "we have not achieved much" in the talks, Britain would never abandon negotiating. "If the Chinese

think there are other ways for the talks to proceed, these could be formal or informal, high-level or low-level."

A diplomatic source noted that, while Mr Patten had persuaded Mr Hurd that it was time partly to go it alone and that it was too late for Peking to renege on Britain on these lesser issues, "never discount the Foreign Office's

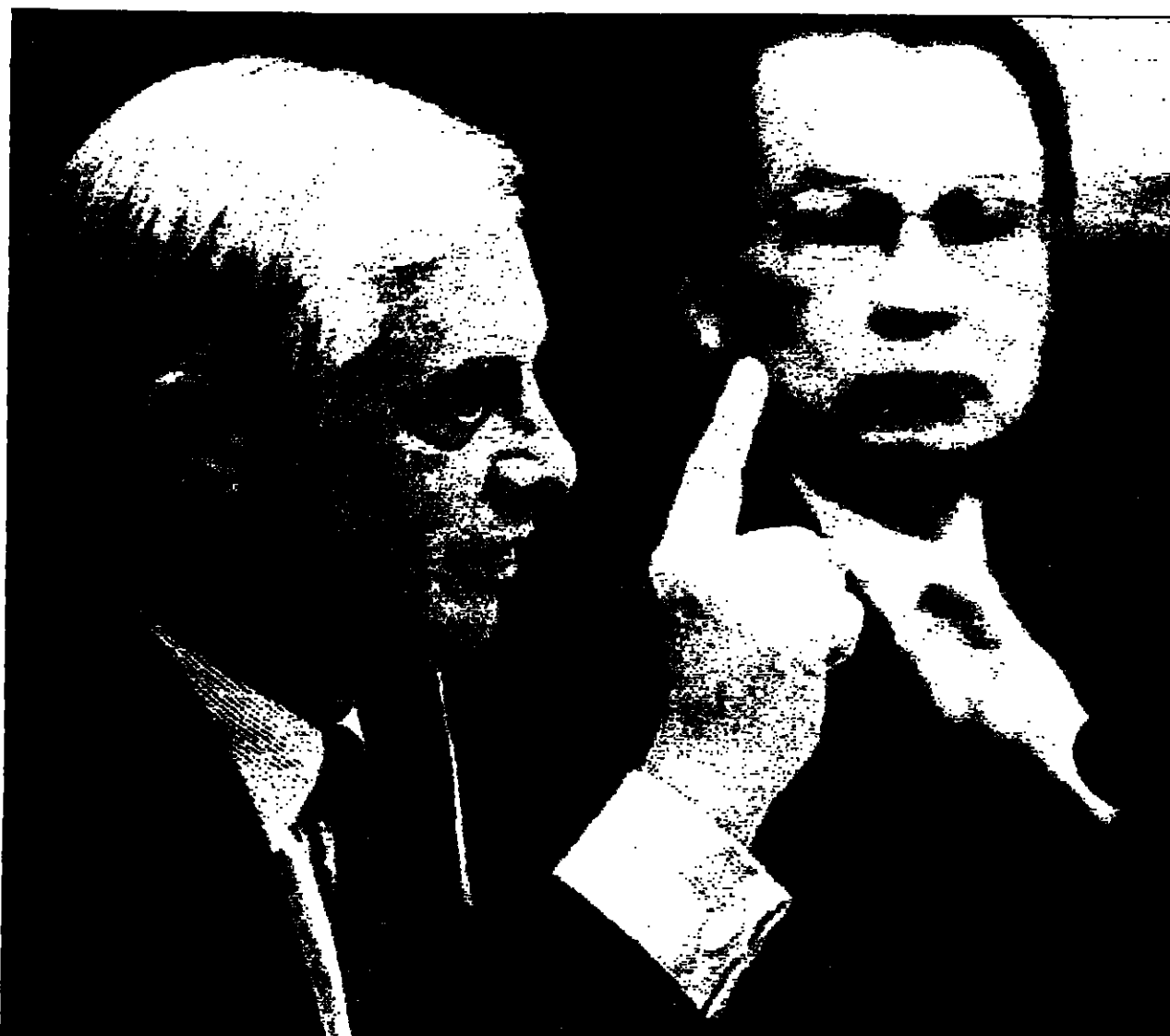
desire to find agreement". Ms Chan said that Hong Kong people would expect the British reaction to Chinese threats of a break to be measured.

Although most of the council members are not democratically elected and many are hostile to the governor's total plan, it is believed that they are likely to pass the limited parts to be introduced in two

weeks. Pro-China legislators attacked Mr Patten's speech. Peggy Lam, who had just returned from high-level talks in Peking, described the situation as dangerous. She was afraid that Mr Patten was damaging the prospect of a smooth transition. Emily Lau, a pro-democracy council member, said: "Mr Patten is right to do this little bit

anyway, but I hope he does not pull back just because Peking throws a few bones on the table." Christine Loh, an independent member, said: "There is very little of the original Patten plan left. I am afraid this is all part of a strategic British retreat."

Peking attack, page 1
Leading article, page 21



Chris Patten, with John Swain, Legislative Council president, announcing his democracy proposals yesterday

South African constitutional wrangle

Boycott may force more concessions from ANC

By R.W. JOHNSON

Understandable euphoria in South Africa over the constitutional negotiators' final completion of their task quickly gave way to misgiving as the fact sank in that this was not the promised federal deal.

Under a final agreement yesterday, blacks will get their first taste of power next week when a transitional executive council starts operating in the run-up to the first non-racial election in April. However, it seems possible that the parties in the conservative Freedom Alliance (Mangosuthu Buthezi's Inkatha Freedom Party, the white right, and the Ciskei and Bophuthatswana homelands) may, in protest against the constitution, boycott the April 27 election. The alliance is using its threat of non-participation as a lever with which to exact further constitutional concessions. But the longer such haggling goes on, the less likely the alliance's participation becomes, because it may be too late for its members to mobilise their voters.

A boycott would be tantamount to a suicide pact by the alliance, for its opponents would win easily and start dismantling the alliance's homeland bases or, in the case of Afrikaners, their vested privilege. But the assumption would be strong that this would merely be a prelude to all-out violence as these interests turned to direct action to block such change.

A boycott thus carries the implicit threat of civil war and would cast a deep pall over the electoral process. The mood of euphoria over the democratic transition, cultivated alike by the buoyant ANC and President de Klerk's National Party, and vital to investor confidence, would be dashed. Even short of that, it would mean that the new South Africa had got off to a crippled start, without the consent of parties claiming

(however disputably) to represent most Zulus, Afrikaners and Tsuanas.

A boycott, moreover, would transform the election into a referendum on the constitution, with those parties that have agreed it — the ANC, the Nationalists and the liberal Democratic Party — forced to defend their handiwork. The alliance parties would claim every abstainer as theirs. The ANC would find itself embar-



Buthezi: his Inkatha retains core following

rassed, for the boycott would cast it as the juggernaut which, by pressing its demands too far, had "caused" the crisis.

The ANC is used to being the party of protest, of victims oppressed by the over-mighty state and would find it psychologically quite uncomfortable to be on the wrong side of a boycott. Moreover, the boycott psychology is so deeply ingrained in much of non-white South Africa that, once that cry was raised, many radicals would find it difficult to resist. Azapo and the militant Pan Africanist Congress would be tempted to join.

An alliance boycott would also alarm Mr de Klerk, whose strategy has rested on making sure that the ANC does not obtain the two-thirds

majority that would allow it to write its own future ticket. This would destabilise the whole system of constitutional checks and balances erected in three years of negotiations. It would panic minorities of every kind. The ANC would be portrayed as a leviathan, too strong to be tied down by any illiberal ropes. The more that opinion polls reinforce that impression, the greater the anxiety will be that effective power-sharing is simply not possible.

Faced with such a situation, the Nationalists and Democrats would go fishing for alliance votes by advertising their own disagreements with the constitution; the Democrats are already making much of their dislike of the electoral system which, indeed, would put power into the hands of central party bosses to a large degree.

While the ANC would claim, with some justification, that the alliance parties were doing so badly in the polls that they were merely seeking excuses not to run, the threat to the new constitution and the new South Africa could not be dismissed lightly. At the very least, the Afrikaner right and Chief Buthezi's Inkatha both contain a large enough hard core, with significant backing from the police and security forces, for it to be highly undesirable that they be left out.

This is why both the ANC and the Nationalists, although they keep insisting that the time for constitutional negotiations is past, find they cannot avoid repeatedly reopening them. Already a new set of (largely cosmetic) "concessions" to the alliance has been announced which it is bound to take as an encouraging sign. The boycott threat may be sufficiently potent for negotiations to continue, perhaps all the way down to the wire in April.

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The age gap is showing as the 1940s welfare state is reformed in the 1990s, says Mary Ann Sieghart

I-know-best generation claims the soul of the nanny state

Each generation shapes society and bequeaths a new design to the next. From this week's Budget has emerged the hazy outlines of the kind of world our children will inherit. It will be one of opportunity but uncertainty: more chances to climb, but further to fall.

Postwar man had his life mapped out almost from birth. And if anything upset the predicted course, the nanny state was there to embrace him, with its snug cradle-to-grave welfare system. Young adults today would be wise to have no such expectations. Their lives will be not cosy but risky; they will have to provide for themselves, not rely on provision from government. Today's 18-year-olds face a more fickle future than their parents: but at least they will control it for themselves. The "I-know-best" generation is handing over to the "I-know-best" generation.

For illustration, look at the lives of two fictional, but representative, characters: Douglas Hope and his daughter, Amanda.

Douglas was born in 1945 to working-class parents. He missed the second world war but grew up in its aftermath, one of the first generation to benefit from the determination that never again would anyone starve for lack of money, die for lack of medical treatment or live in ignorance for lack of education. Douglas had a state education, which included free school milk and meals. The new National Health Service ensured that his health was the preserve of the state.

The course of Douglas's life was determined when he passed his 11-plus and went to grammar school. He took advantage of his excellent education, securing himself a university place and allowing him to rise out of the working class. The government paid his tuition fees and gave him a grant.

Sexual intercourse began, according to Philip Larkin, the year Douglas arrived at university. The Pill was just becoming available, and Aids had not yet arrived, so sex held fewer dangers. Life was fun and carefree, certainly compared with that of his parents. Graduates were virtually guaranteed a good job in the expanding market of the 1960s. Many spent a

year or two travelling first, knowing that this would not be held against them.

Douglas had to choose between a profession, a corporate job or a public-service career. He did not consider starting his own business. The choice he made after graduation was to determine the rest of his working life.

Jobs were secure in those days and the hours undemanding. But employers were also stuffy and hierarchical. Young people were given little responsibility and had to serve time before promotion. Seniority was determined by age.

Douglas felt safe in his job. His white-collar trade union ensured that his employer granted him his statutory rights. His pay was negotiated for him, and rose steadily, a little faster than inflation, except when there was an incomes policy. Taxes seemed to creep up too, but Douglas saw them as insurance premiums.

Soon he was rich enough to buy a £5,000 house. He had to wait a few years for a mortgage, but he was rather pleased when, in the 1970s, inflation ate away at this debt while at the same time increasing the value of the house. Mortgage tax relief was a boon.

His only child, Amanda, was born in 1975. Money seemed tighter, but the state paid him child benefit. There were no local grammar schools, so Amanda went to the comprehensive.

Unemployment never beckoned for him, but he was reassured to know that he would qualify for unemployment benefit if it should. He knew too that, if necessary, he could live off the state for his whole life, with no obligation to look for a job.

If he were to fall ill, the state would provide sick pay and if he were permanently incapacitated, he could claim invalidity benefit. The government has guaranteed him a basic pension — he has paid his stamps, hasn't he? — and his employer will take care of the rest. A few of his friends have recently been made redundant but their long service has at least ensured generous redundancy payments. Looking back, and forward, Douglas is quietly satisfied with



National health spectacles: the epitome of the generation that could rely on the support of the state from the cradle to the grave

his life. It has turned out more or less as planned: comfortable, predictable, occasionally boring, but with little cause for anxiety. About Amanda's prospects he feels rather more apprehensive.

So far, Amanda seems to have had a better life in some respects. She has never gone hungry, though her consumption of crisps and sweets has probably made her diet less healthy than his. Her life

expectancy is longer and immunisation ensured that she did not catch the diseases of his childhood. Dentists might be more expensive, but fluoridated water made her teeth healthy.

At school she thrived, but only because of her self-discipline. She enjoyed what seemed to be more adventurous teaching than Douglas had, but many of her schoolmates were less motivated, and

teachers put little pressure on them.

Amanda, now 18, plans to start at one of the new universities, the former polytechnics, next autumn. There are many more places than in Douglas's day. But she knows that she will have to borrow money as the grant is whittled away.

From her first term, she will be thinking about her curriculum

vita. She will work on the student newspaper, knowing that this will look good under "other activities". She may not find a job when she graduates, but dares not take a year off to travel in case an employer thinks she is unmotivated. Aids has shut the window of sexual liberation. But she knows she is lucky to be taken as seriously as any man in her quest for a career.

And employment will be all-important for Amanda's generation. Staff jobs will be eagerly sought after, since the much more prevalent freelance and contract positions carry with them no sick pay, no pension, no holiday entitlement. Few will belong to trade unions. She will have to be tough to negotiate good terms in an individual contract.

If Amanda wins a coveted staff job, she will be beholden to her employer for many of the benefits that the state provided to her father. Sick pay, health insurance, pension contributions, training and perhaps even childcare could come with the job. She dares not rely on the government paying her a pension, even when she retires at 65. Her company will send her for regular health checks: not just for her own benefit, but also to ensure that she will not cost large sums in sick pay. It may insist that she does not smoke or drink, and that she works out in a gym. She has chosen not to smoke anyway, partly because the real cost of cigarettes is rising fast, but also because it might disqualify her from health treatment.

Her boss will know, and she will know, that she dare not lose her job. Work will be far less secure than in her father's day, so the anxiety will be constant. On the other hand, responsibility these days comes younger and promotion is strictly on merit. If Amanda works hard, she can expect to travel more to earn a better salary and to have a much higher standard of living than Douglas did at her age. Many of her friends want to run their own businesses, and she might join them. The future is wide open: she could change her career several times.

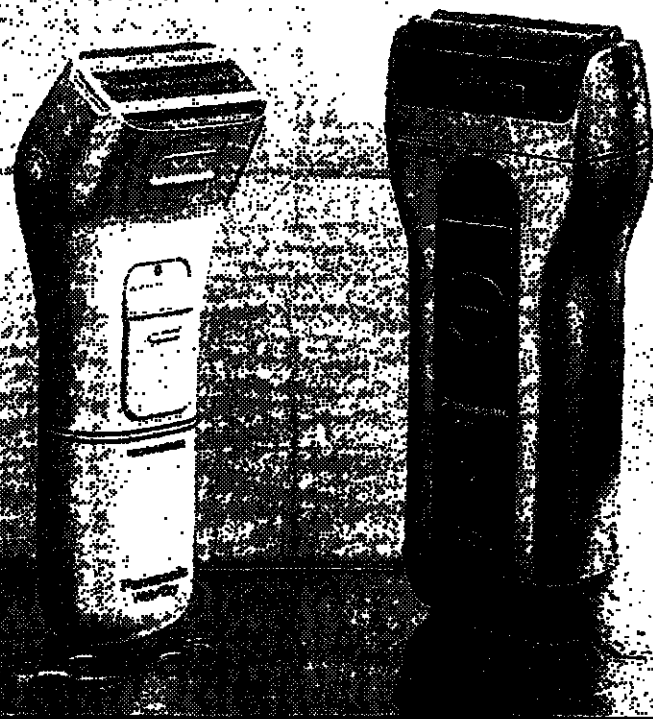
She will probably not buy a house. Tax relief is falling, and may have vanished by the time she graduates. Anyway, she will not be able to afford a deposit; it will be hard enough to pay off her student loan. Unlike her father, she expects eventually to inherit the family home, though her parents may be forced to sell it when they become old so that they can spend the proceeds on nursing care.

Life will be precarious for Amanda. If she loses her job, she will qualify for the new jobseeker's allowance only if she can prove that she is actively looking for work, and for just six months rather than 12. Sick pay is no longer the government's responsibility except for small employers, and incapacity benefit is very restrictive. She may decide to take out private insurance against disasters: she does not trust the state to provide.

Amanda's life is full of critical decisions. She has more choices than her father, but the consequences will be greater. Douglas's society was one that evened out the lumpiness of life; Amanda's will magnify both the successes and the failures. She will look with horror at the lot of those less intelligent, less fortunate or less self-reliant, and will do all she can to avoid joining them.

Life may be more exciting, but it will also be more frightening. The dependent society is dying, the independent society taking its place.

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Found: Will's lost years

A.L. Rowse repudiates a popular theory about Shakespeare's early life

To anyone properly acquainted with the Elizabethan age there is no mystery in a gap in our knowledge of any Elizabethan. Scholars of that age know that it is a quite regular feature. It is more remarkable when we know as much as we do about the lives of such people as Shakespeare or Marlowe.

A common conjecture is to equate Shakespeare with one William Shakespeare, an otherwise unknown actor who appears in Lancashire, and to send our Stratford young man up there for the duration! Improbable and quite unnecessary.

We should follow the track of the known association of Shakespeare with his London printer, Richard Field, his fellow Stratford townsman. The Fields and Shakespeares were known to each other in the small community of Stratford, especially since Richard Field's father was a tanner, and Shakespeare's father a glover. On August 21, 1592 the latter, John Shakespeare, appraised the goods of Henry Field, the tanner of Bridge Street. The Shakespeares lived just up the street from there, at what we know as the "birthplace".

Meanwhile Richard Field was well established in London as a printer, serving six years as apprentice to the Huguenot printer, Vautrollier in Blackfriars. He did well by marrying Vautrollier's widow and succeeding to the prosperous business. By 1592 his younger brother, Jasper, had arrived from Stratford to join the business.

There was plenty of work to do, for Vautrollier's list was a

notable one, and Richard Field improved on it. Vautrollier printed a good deal of French stuff, along with editions of the classics. He also printed school textbooks, and North's translation of Plutarch's *Lives*, that favourite source for Shakespeare's plays.

The enterprising spirit of Field went further, mainly in printing, but also in publishing. He printed more French tracts, in translation, on the exciting political scene in France. In 1589 he produced Puttenham's *Art of English Poesy*, the best such critical work to appear in that age, and one whose whole approach, argument and tone, chimed noticeably with Shakespeare's views and practice. Above all, in 1589 Field produced a fine edition of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* in Latin.

In 1593, Field published for Shakespeare his *Venus and Adonis*, with its challenging Latin epigraph from Ovid.



Where was he in the 1590s?

Next year, 1594, Field produced Shakespeare's *The Rape of Lucrece*. Both these poems were overwhelmingly influenced by Ovid. So was his preface to the *Southampton*, "A Lover's Complaint", with its marked Latinity of idiom. What are we to make of this? Obviously, that Ovid was the prime classical influence on Shakespeare as a poet, not Virgil — and certainly not Lucan (whom Marlowe translated).

TOMORROW A.L. Rowse, poet, Cornishman, fellow of All Souls and historian of Tudor England celebrates his 90th birthday. No stranger to the disputes among Shakespeare scholars, in his books on the Bard he has argued forcefully that the Dark Lady of the sonnets was one Emilia Lanier, who came from a family of Italian musicians living in London, and published poetry. The author of more than 80 books, Rowse's latest, *All Souls In My Time*, is a guide to the life and traditions of the college that elected him a Prize Fellow in 1925.



Contemporaries thought of Shakespeare's poetry as Ovidian. When Francis Meres paid tribute to his work in 1598 it was thus: "so the sweet witty soul of Ovid lives in mellifluous and honey-tongued Shakespeare". The influence is no less strong in all the early plays, and carries on throughout his work. His preface play, *Titus Andronicus*, was inspired from no historical source, but from Ovid. It is filled with classical references and Latin tags to show that, though not a university wit, he was as good as they were. In the early *Taming of the Shrew* the influence of Ovid occurs in nearly every scene. So it goes, almost as strongly, through all three *Henry VI* plays.

A couple of the early plays come largely from school texts: *The Comedy of Errors*, for example, straight from Plautus. Both Ovid and Plautus show up in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, while Plautus dominates *Julius Caesar* and the later Roman plays. Most interesting is *Love's Labour's Lost*, of largely autobiographical inspiration (as is

The Two Gentlemen of Verona). It picks up the names of its characters and hints at situations, for example, oath-taking and breaking, from French pamphlets printed by Field.

It has been noticed by others that Shakespeare was up to the mark in the matter of printing. This is corroborated by the well-known fact that his own acknowledged early poems, printed by Field, are well proof-read. While the Sonnets, certainly not published by Shakespeare — with their too intimately revealing story of his dependence on Southampton and his infatuation with Emilia Lanier — are carelessly proof-read.

Actually, as late as *Cymbeline* (1609) there is a friendly salute to Richard Field, appropriately in French as Richard du Champ. Why? Because Shakespeare was at that moment becoming part-owner of the theatre his company were acquiring in Blackfriars. Field had earlier printed a Spanish work of Antonio Pérez, the recognisable original of Armado in *Love's Labour's Lost*.

Where does this take us, and what does it reveal? Now, if we want to know what William Shakespeare was doing in those years from 1587, when we hear of him at Stratford, we now know where to look — not gambolling about as William Shakespeare in Lancashire, but in London. And, if we want to find a focus for that education which enabled him to bear the university wits at their own game, we need look no further than Blackfriars. Here were available a printing press, a collection of books to supply it and to study, and even a theatre in waiting.

Millionaire conman who saw the light

Nicholas Young swindled a fortune from his clients — now he works for £4 an hour as a steward at St Paul's Cathedral to repay his debt to society

You remember Nicholas Young — the Roger Levitt of his day. He was the son of Canon Edwin Young, chaplain to the Queen. The City accountant who persuaded family and friends to invest in a suspiciously high-yielding "offshore fund", shored a neat anagram of what the money really went on, i.e. the horses.

Note the similarities with *All Or Nothing At All* on LWT tonight, with Hugh Laurie as a parson's son who turns City swindler, gambling friends' money on horses, losing beautiful wife, home, and three children... Young, out of prison for a year now, finds the coincidences uncanny.

Twenty-five years on, one can observe which of one's Cambridge contemporaries became gilded, rich and famous, as opposed to poor, mad, dead etc. Salman Rushdie, David Hare, Clive James, Germaine Greer, Jonathan King — we had the usual mix: media, peers, QCs, a high court judge — and that smiley Nick Young, ex-conman.

At Cambridge he sent off for a turf broker's "win and save system", foolishly forgetting about bookies, not punters, drive Rollers. Later, working for Clark Kenneth Leventhal, he exercised his great abilities and great charm as the judge said, to cheat people out of millions. From 1977 till 1985, luck and cunning prospered. He could offer investors 30 per cent, with plenty left for himself. "I had no quibbles about it. I was a one-man Lloyd's. My investors [sometimes "victims"] were told it was all tax-paid — betting-tax, actually, but if I'd said the money was going on horses they'd have run a mile. I said it was an unusual investment opportunity, "an international fund". I would try to put them off — the best way to sell — and would say no, they trusted me, because they all knew someone else making a killing. I was a charming, silver-tongued marketing person. My average investor got £1,500 a month; some thousands more, which they never had to declare. They'd send me Fortnum's hampers in gratitude.

"The fact is, when people

make Lloyd's-style money, without lifting a finger, they get used to it so when the thing collapses it's a double blow. School fees, a nursing home for mother... suddenly they didn't have that money any more."

Curiously, unlike Hugh Laurie in tonight's film, he didn't go racing. At Ascot he might bet \$50 each way. It was statistics and figures that enthralled him. A form researcher sent him a printout of odds. "The broker played the bets, and sent a fortnightly statement and a cheque to pay my investors. In good years, the profits were massive, but it was all hare-brained."

"The psychiatrist in Brixton concluded I was no classic gambler. I don't take risks, I'm the kind who wears both braces and a belt. I was more like a mad professor. I really felt I had discovered something revolutionary, an impossible dream. He said I aspired to a high-profile life like my father's: he was so loved by people."

"I was naive, deceitful, ambitious; it was wonderfully, enormously self-satisfying. But nobody asked me for too many details."

When it began to go horribly wrong, in 1985 — recession biting, punters demanding capital back — he still had to meet the monthly payments, and unforgivably encouraged victims to take out bank loans and mortgages to invest more, waking every morning in a cold sweat. Yet he inexplicably blew £28,000 on a ludicrous 40th birthday party for his wife Caroline at Les Ambassadeurs, as crisis loomed. "My conscience was... diluted. I departed further and further from reality, and any sense of goodness."

When the game was up in June 1990 he checked into the Imperial Hotel, Torquay, and wrote farewell letters to his children, his wife and mother, as if about to jump off a cliff. Alas, the next morning dawned beautiful, the beaches full. He ran into two old cricketer friends. He took a series of trains to King's Lynn; to York (was Clifford's Tower high enough to jump?) and to Newark, where he saw a play about a man who owns up to a terrible crime...



Facing his past — Nicholas Young is confronted by one of his victims inside St Paul's Cathedral, where he is working as a steward showing tourists around the Whispering Gallery

At 8am next day he was at the police station. It said: "Closed. Open at 9." After breakfast he returned; in minutes he was in a cell, until the Serious Fraud Squad accompanied him, first class, to London. "The train guard looked at me in my blue blazer," he recalled, "and said, 'No, I'm the man, these are the officers' — they were so scruffy." But they gave him a (non-smoker) a final freedom cigar, and said they were sorry he would have to miss Henley next week.

At the Old Bailey he was sentenced to four years by Judge Michael Astill for his deception and "naked greed". He spent ten months in Wormwood Scrubs and two in Brixton: cathartic, he says. "It was salutary, to go right down to that bedlam hellhole world of beatings up and danger. I was banged up with Michael Shorey, still doing life for murder — I still visit him in the Scrubs."

Then he graduated to the "almost embarrassingly" civilised "A" wing of Ford Open Prison, along with fellow fraudsters, including another

old Selwyn man; a former Labour MP and barrister, Ernest Saunders, Tony Parnes. He was a model prisoner. "My cell became a showcase, with Laura Ashley curtains and my books." He learned Spanish and trained as a Samaritan. He wrote letters obsessively. He wrote out of the blue to me, recalling that we'd both read English and relating how he had emerged (thank God!) from hell with a new view of life, having refound faith, and being given an "undeserved second chance". And he wrote to each of the 62 victims — knowing he could never put things right. "It was emotional torture, but it was selfish too, it was a healing process for me. No doubt my letters were grossly inadequate and sounded hollow, and helped me more than them. I was delighted when 13 of them wrote back. My old headmaster at Bloxham, at 95, wrote 'You will always be the Nicky I knew.' Only after eight months did his mother visit him; his parents were among his victims."

Mrs Young's late husband was an engaging cleric, termed a Royal Peculiar. He would invite all the couples he'd married to a Valentine's

Day service at the Savoy Chapel. He was the first chaplain to a strip club (Paul Raymond's Revuebar) and to the Palladium, where the Tiller Girls adored him. His autobiography was called *No Fun Like Work*.

And it took Nick Young a year in jail, he says, before he admitted the wicked criminality of his acts. He was at first turned down for parole, too self-deluded to acknowledge moral guilt. "The paradox and unfairness," Young wrote, "was that I have begun to feel an inner peace, while my poor investors are agonising still. Perhaps that can never be resolved. They cannot accept my remorse."

His wife, who divorced him forthwith, is the one he is sorriest for. She went with him

on trips abroad but knew nothing of his schemes. "And suddenly she was destitute, no income, no home. Luckily friends were kind, and two children got scholarships. But they all wrote asking me never to visit them." Now 19, 16 and 12, they still refuse to see him. "When I sent them each £10 at Easter, two sent it back."

I met him two days after his release: 3st thinner, looking rejuvenated. "That seems wrong doesn't it? I should be walking on a stick, with my head bowed."

He was full of plans for doing good, but it is hard to find a job at 48, even without a criminal record. He nearly landed one, but a referee, Canon John

Halliburton at St Paul's, felt it proper to reveal his history. Instead, the kindly canon gave him casual work at the cathedral, as one of the stewards in blue who show Japanese tourists the Whispering Gallery for £4 an hour. He will be there on Christmas Day.

He also goes charring, as learnt at Ford "where I became a great fan of Mr Muscie and Milton siesler. I also do ironing for £4.50 an hour." He makes about £125 a week (rent of Fulham flat, £75; rail fares £1) but is still bankrupt. "I live a simple and sensible life, with memories of a treadmill of gloss and sham." Women and gay men are his best friends. Naturally, he followed the Levitt trial keenly — "we both hit the point of no return, and were arrogant and did

stupid and stupider things" — and was amazed about the community service sentence. "I, too, had nice character letters — from Diana Lamplugh, Emma Nicholson — but mine were disregarded. And at least his wife is standing by him. But I think he will miss that slough of despond: which is paradoxically a blessing."

He says his ambition now is to reimburse all those who made a net loss, but it is hard to see how. Tonight, as he has his birthday dinner with his girlfriend, a divorcee of 45, his angry, hurt, embarrassed victims will not wish him many happy returns. But the opening line of *All Or Nothing At All* is: "This is a story about money." It is also a saga of greed — on both sides.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

Valerie Grove is a former model and actress who has been in the news for her involvement in a high-profile case.

Valerie Grove is a former model and actress who has been in the news for her involvement in a high-profile case.

Why shouldn't a lawyer go to court in a sweater and a canary-yellow tie?

Dressing down gets black looks at the bar

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

In 1983, Ann Mallalieu, QC (as she then was) challenged the Inland Revenue about her working wardrobe. Her extensive collection of black dresses, black suits, black shoes, flesh-coloured tights and white blouses should, she said, be tax-deductible because they were so "dull and dowdy" that she would never wear them except for her work.

The Law Lords thought differently. Miss Mallalieu's clothes, they pronounced, were "perfectly ordinary articles of apparel which many ladies wear from choice". Many ladies, perhaps, but only those with aspirations to look like an Anita Brookner heroine, hissed female lawyers, as they scrubbed off their make up.

Ten years later, lawyers still have one of the most rigid dress codes of any profession. Apart from the obligatory wig and gown for barristers, dark suits, plain shirts and sensible shoes are expected of everyone, and woe betide the sartorially adventurous.

"I might be able to get away with a charcoal suit, but I think navy would be frowned upon," says Rebecca, a pupil barrister who has had to suppress all her natural inclinations towards psychedelic caftans. "I think there is only one female lawyer who wears trousers," says Baroness Mallalieu, as she is today, "and that is because she was in a road accident."

application, you can do it in writing, then I won't have to look at you," Mr Breen snapped.

Mark Stephens, a London solicitor, had a similar experience. "I have a very bright, yellow tie and a crusty magistrate told me to take it off, asking if I had split egg yolk down myself," he says.

Mr Stephens, however, whose brightly-coloured, double-breasted suits are well known in the legal world, remains completely unrepentant. "Everyone in my office dresses comfortably," he says. "We had one woman who came from a City firm and tried to power dress for the first ten days, but after that she gave up and became much more relaxed."

The relaxed look, however, does not apply to court appearances. "We accept the traditions there, because we don't wish to disadvantage clients," Mr Stephens says. "After all, this is a profession in which judges say things like 'You can take off your jacket, provided you are not wearing bright-coloured braces.'"

"We actually keep a selection of old boys' ties, so lawyers can pick out the appropriate one to keep the judge happy. One day you can be the Old Etonian and the next day a Pauline, it goes

down very well." This carefree attitude remains the exception to the rule, however. Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, and Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, recently consulted a selection of jurors, solicitors and barristers over whether the 18th-century practice of wearing wigs and gowns in court was now somewhat outdated. Despite a vociferous abolition lobby, including Lord Taylor himself, the majority of lawyers, it was found, still prefer the image of Jarndyce and Jarndyce to that of *LA Law*, so two months ago, the wigs and gowns were revived.

It is doubtful whether such trappings will endure eternally, but Veronica Newson, of Ede and Ravenscroft, the legal apparel suppliers, thinks that change will be very slow. "It's going to be the most gradual innovation," she says.

There have been changes of sorts, there are now female *unic suits* and men no longer wear bowler hats but the fact is that, even though the Bar Council guidelines on dress do not stipulate, for example, that women lawyers should not wear trousers, very few dare try in case they offend the judge and prejudice a case.

Lady Mallalieu agrees that judges set the standard for court fashions. "The courts used to be policed very strictly by a woman silk, who is now retired. Women used to hide in the loo when she was passing. She once stopped a rather glamorous lawyer who, on a hot day, was wearing a black, sleeveless dress under her gown and she told her it was unacceptable. She had to run across the road and buy a pair of long, black gloves and cut the hands off."

Despite her criticism of lawyers' clothes, Lady Mallalieu still feels they are the right ones for court. "You need to show respect for your surroundings and not to distract proceedings by being improperly dressed," she says. "I just want it to be accepted that I wear a uniform to work and would not wear it in any other circumstances."

Even lawyers have to appease their vanity somehow, however, not to mention spend their generous salaries. Beneath many a pair of pin-striped trousers lurks a set of day-glo socks, while cufflinks distinctly bear the motto LOVE and HATE, spelt out in diamonds, and ties will often bear the discreet mark of Hermès, rather than Marks & Spencer.

Austin Reed holds special seminars and shopping evenings to help women lawyers distinguish one black, knee-length A-line skirt from another, and Ede and Ravenscroft have employed the services of the designer Bella Freud to produce a collection of pin-striped skirts, jackets, trousers and waistcoats, which have been very popular with female lawyers, reassured in the knowledge that an expensive label lurks behind their dowdy exteriors. In a profession obsessed with minutiae, the best way to do this seems to be to concentrate on the hidden details.

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Philip Howard



■ The person in the street may have something to gain from political correctness

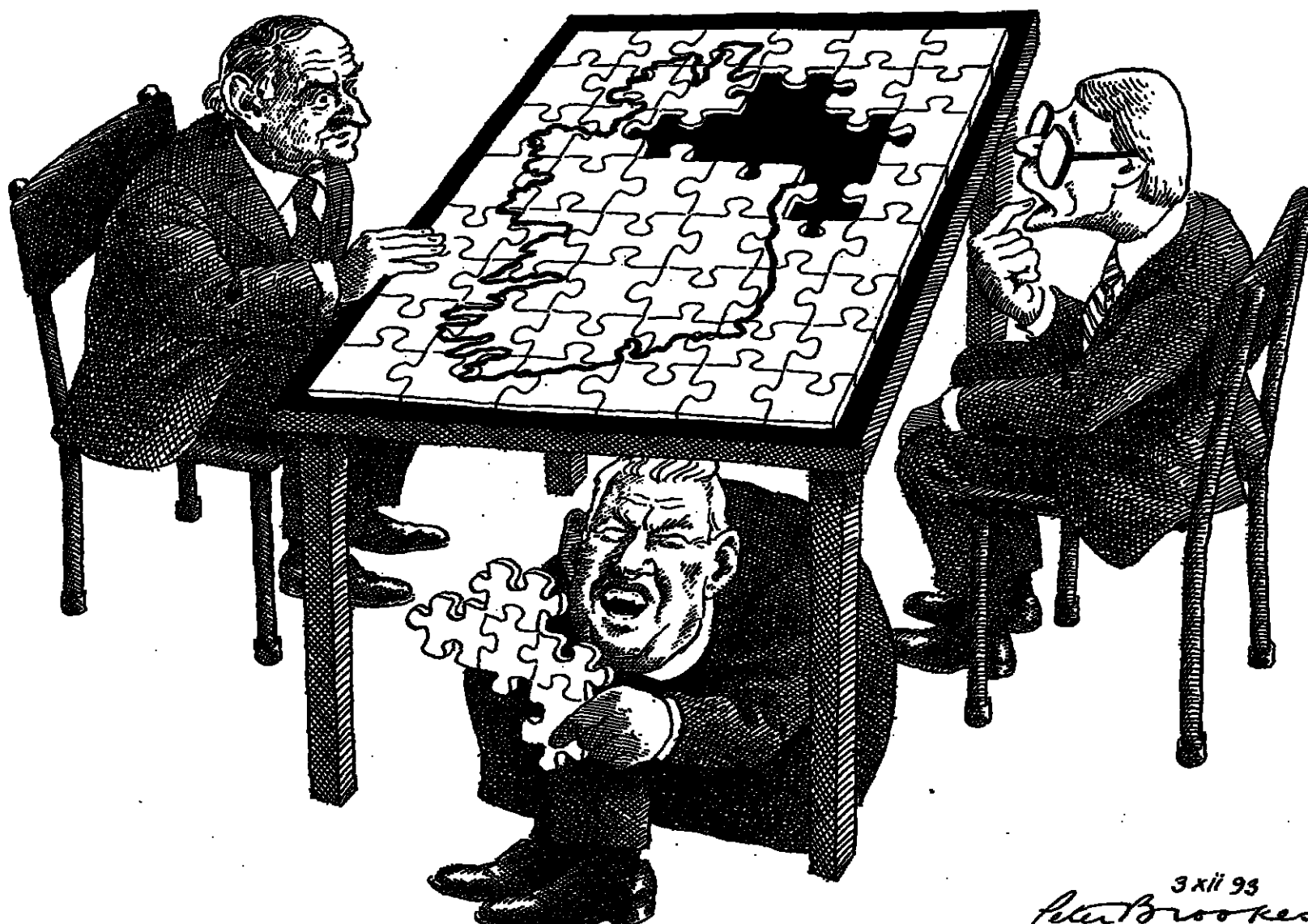
Budgets change more things than benefits and the price of petrol: they can change the language. Politics being the art of persuasion, this week's Budget introduced two politically correct euphemisms in order to butter up as many potential voters as possible, and to offend only non-voting paper scapgoats such as New Age travellers, foreign welfare scroungers and unmarried mothers — though some in the government overestimated populist distastefulness for the last group. The new epithet "incapacity" allowance is no improvement on the "invalidity" it replaces. The two words are nearly synonyms, but the change of name suggests that something radical is happening. Both are necessarily dull umbrella-words, but at least they are not as euphemistic as "inconvenience", the politically correct term to describe the crippled in America.

Kent Clarke's other contribution to the English language this week, "jobseeker", is rhetorically more up-beat than "unemployed", but the search for a polite epithet to describe the condition is unending and self-defeating. Each new adman's euphemism rapidly becomes explicit and derogatory. Before jobseekers, the politically correct term was "unemployed", which suggests to me a war that has not yet taken place. Other euphemisms for unemployment, intended to imply it is voluntary and temporary, are resting (one of the least restful periods in an actor's life), between jobs, at liberty, and on the labour (from the old Labour Exchanges). JobCentres (all one word by adman's pretentious design) which replaced them also take the positive view of describing a glass as half full rather than half empty.

Political correctness has itself become a derogatory phrase in Britain, as has that generous old word liberal. But in their proper uses, both are humane qualities. Society is better that racial abuse is now generally deemed disgusting, and can be illegal. Feminists had a point when they drew attention to the way that language reflects and helps to maintain sexual stereotypes. Nowadays job advertisements take care not to imply that the successful candidate will automatically be a white male. We have become sensitive about such sexist language as: "Mind that child — he may be deaf." "People used to bring their wives, mothers and children." "Man, being a mammal, breastfeeds his young." "Rise Up, O Men of God." All those examples are justifiable linguistically, with man as a generic term, and the last is the first line of a rousing old hymn. On the sensible grounds of precision and avoiding giving offence to one half of the human race (mankind), we can often work our way round such usages.

The wilder shores of feminism, mainly in North America, have given political correctness a bad name. To ban studying dead white European males is philistinism that cuts off nine-tenths of the culture and literature of the world. To rename history "herstory" makes a political point but a linguistic howler. Contrary to the untrue and partisan accounts, Plymouth city council did not propose to drop the term "manager" last month from its employees because of feminist doctrine. It just wanted to make its executives seem more approachable, less like bosses in grey suits out of *Hard Times*. This admirable ambition made Plymouth the butt of tabloid jokes about the loyalty left for a lively week.

Many of the sexless alternatives to sex-loaded terms are as ugly as the term "gender-neutral". Chairperson, person in the street, and humankind are never going to catch on. But chairman is neutral in Britain, and chair, echoing the phrase "in the chair", is not a bad alternative. Sales assistant is preferable to salesman. We should not use words to make unwarranted assumptions about the sex of an interest group. Do we mean housewives or consumers, mothers or parents? Manpower has been changed to the fatuous human resources. Nobody can impose correctness on the tides of language. The tides flow past the canutes of politics and ideology. But, interpreted liberally, political sensitivity should be a kind of politeness and avoidance of a closed mind. Its barrier excesses will fade away.



Uncle Joe's untouchables

The trial of Markus Wolf reminds us how very few of communism's evil-doers have received their just deserts

The collapse of the Evil Empire (has that disgusting waxwork of Lenin been thrown out of Red Square yet, and if not why not?) brought in its wake countless serious, even dangerous, difficulties and troubles — so much so that some of the more disheartened Russians have been re-installing their hated Soviet rulers in power. I would not be surprised to learn that the more shameless fellow-travellers in this country have been heard saying, "Ah, you knew where you were with Comrade Stalin".

But just as the Nuremberg trials were an absolute necessity, despite their *ad hoc* nature, so it had to be — has to be — with the knowledge of the wickedness that poured out of the liberated nations. The retribution for the Nazis was haphazard but just: true, countless small fry and very many medium-size fry and a considerable number of very large fry indeed (Werner von Braun, for instance) escaped entirely, but the truth went down to history, and until history itself disappears it will be remembered. So it must be for the criminals of the Soviet oppression, those who lived by the belief, or had persuaded themselves, that, just like the Nazis who turned the gas taps, it was right and necessary that human beings should be slaughtered in their millions in the death camps ("Ah, Uncle Joe had his faults, but you must admit that the Five-Year Plan was a stroke of genius").

The problem was solved in a variety of ways. In Czechoslovakia, Václav Havel, who had more reason than most to order the severest punishment for the oppressors, torturers and traitors, instead ordered something like a complete amnesty: he would not take vengeance even when the rod of vengeance was in his hand. Elsewhere, there have been trials of the worst collaborators (remember that by the time the walls came down most of the wickedest were dead); again, it has been haphazard, but again, it is a warning that must not be forgotten.

Some of the greatest criminals got off scot-free because a full trial might have been embarrassing: the worst villains had long seen ultimate retribution coming, and had made sure that they had tucked away documents which would have brought fierce blushes to their prosecutors, if any. (The most striking instance of this smelly *quid pro quo* was the "fate" of Erich Honecker, the brutal thief and thug who had ruled over East Germany. Put on trial after the

Wall fell, Honecker and his counsel were about to start the embarrassments, when somebody presumably tugged the sleeve of the runaway Chancellor Kohl — thus named because whenever he meets a problem he runs away from it — whereupon Honecker — with wife — was hastily fitted up with a diagnosis of fatal cancer and a first-class ticket to Santiago, where the air is so refreshing that it instantly cured the cancer.)

But all these evaders or escapees of justice must bow the knee to one — a criminal a thousand times over — who has been arraigned on a charge of treason, and who is due to know his sentence on Monday. He is Markus Wolf, who was the head of the East German spy service for no less than 33 years. No one — certainly not he — could count the number of innocent men and women who suffered through his actions, how many years those actions had helped to put back the day when freedom came to the east, how much more dangerous the nuclear world had been because of him.

His defence combines impudence with lunacy in roughly equal parts. For a taste of the lunacy, take his assertion that East Germany had basked in "social justice" and was without "arrogance or nationalist taint", that because of his contribution to those ideals he is now not allowed "to walk around with his head held high". For the impudence, he asks how he could be guilty of treason to a state he was not a citizen of until after his own ceased to exist.

It is all very well for him to say such things, he must have parroted them a thousand times and more in his capacity of spy-master-general, and indeed, in every waking moment of his communist life, he had to come to terms with the monstrous lie which called his "country" of all things the German Democratic Republic. ("Ah, it would all have gone much smoother if Stalin hadn't died.")

But what goes on inside such a head as that? It is true that all spies and spymasters go mad sooner or later, but from the only evidence available it is almost impossible to guess whether he believed what he was saying. After all, there he was, within spitting distance of a wall built solely to prevent the people of his sarapny leaving, and with guards ordered to shoot dead any who tried it, and yet he could still, it seems without laughing, talk about the "social justice" his "country" enjoyed.

More equivocal evidence: in an interview with him after he had retired, he said that the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and the even more complete collapse of it in the "Democratic Republic" saddened him; he even admitted that wrong had been done in the name of communism. He did not quite say "I voss only obeyink orders", but

the famous phrase could not have been far from his lips, or at least his mind. And truly he was only obeying orders; his orders were to damage, if possible ruinously, as much of the genuinely democratic alliance as he could. He could not have thought, unless he was very mad, that he and his comrades could topple that alliance and leave the world free for permanent communism, but he did great damage, not least to many human beings.

And so he finds himself in the dock, shouting his innocence, puffing himself up with pride, denouncing the proceedings as "a show trial" (could he, a lifelong Stalinist, really not see the irony in those words?), and congratulating his assistants in their work, still unsure that it might be held wrong, even wicked, to serve a master whose only ambition was to ensure that evil would triumph.

There is a case to be made — I referred to it earlier when discussing the Czechoslovakian example — for wiping the

entire slate clean, and letting bygones by bygones, however painful, however deserving of punishment though it would surely stick in any craw to waive the punishment of the guards at the Wall who actually shot dead the men and women and children who tried to get across. After all, it is not likely that Germany would split in two again with one half practising democracy and the other "democracy"; why, then, should we feel obliged to point the moral?

Because I have been re-reading the things that Markus Wolf has said, and I have spotted something that passed me by the first time round. Our hero, it seems, with his ironclad integrity and fidelity to his cause, nevertheless has somewhat flexible beliefs. In the late 1980s, when the shadow of communism's collapse was growing for those who could see (and the eyes of Markus Wolf were certainly among the world's sharpest), Wolf decided that it would be a good time for him to become disenchanted with Honecker, and to that end announced his retirement, in which he would give his (somewhat grease-splattered) allegiance to Mikhail Gorbachev. Listen to the man whose aim had now pointed his gun another way: "... It was at this time that my opposition to the regime began..." Nor did he stop there; he wrote a novel, in which he made clear, at least to himself, that Honecker and the Honecker world had nothing to do with him. And when the net was closing, he scuttled off to Russia, only to find that nobody there wanted him.

Now what do we make of that? "I again acknowledge," he says, "full responsibility for the actions of those who reported to me, under the constitution and the laws of the German Democratic Republic." How upright, how honourable; why, Seneca himself could not better it.

But I can. Do you know what I think Herr Wolf is? Not a fanatical communist, not a man who serves his country through thick and thin, not a spymaster without compare; I think he has always lived for what he could get, and would have sold his vile country to its enemies if they had paid him in sufficient prestige and enough expensive suits (I forgot that bit). I think he is a very fine actor, a very practised liar and a very clever scoundrel. I hope that on Monday, when the court reassembles, he is sent to prison, and stays there for a very long time.

Bernard Levin

Snap to it

LORD Waddington is evidently running the sort of tough, no-nonsense regime on Bermuda yearned for by the more right wing of his former cabinet colleagues back home. Claims of press censorship have been levelled by a photographer over a picture of the governor's car.

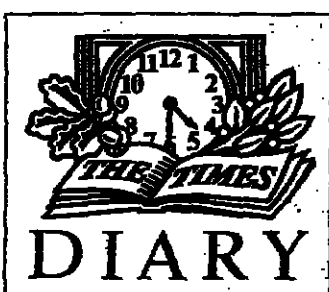
Along with the elaborate regalia that goes with the governorship is the colony's only Daimler. But, despite a speed limit of 22mph, it is temperamental. Spotting the limousine broken down at the roadside and guarded by a policeman, the freelance photographer rushed off a quick snap. "Waddlers", as the former home secretary was dubbed in the Lords, was not even in the car at the time.

Yet the photographer alleges that a man claiming to be a detective later knocked on his door and ordered him to hand over the offending print and negative. The reason? The man claimed it was an offence to photograph the official vehicle in such an unfortunate state. The demoralised photographer, who is fearful of making his identity public, obliged.

When closely questioned, the local constabulary did not admit to sending the detective. Nothing to

do with us either, insists Waddington's officials. "We are not paranoid about the car," pleads a spokesman. "It does break down sometimes because we cannot get the parts and the climate is not conducive. I can't imagine how this happened."

● Polish police officers don't want to appear ungrateful, but a gift from the Northumbria force of four specially trained dogs is of limited value: the animals understand only English. Eugene Krys from Katowice, taking charge of Billy, a German Shepherd, says: "I feel strange giving the orders in a foreign language. But



at least it means any crooks we come up against back home won't know what I'm telling Billy to do."

Poetic injustice

WEDNESDAY was not a good day for Michael Ivens, director of Aims of Industry. His organisation, which promotes free enterprise and generally plugs Thatcherism, received a drubbing at the hands of Channel 4's *Dispatches*. What was worse for Ivens, however, was the implication that he was a poor poet. The following doggerel, in praise of Baroness Thatcher, was read out and attributed to Ivens: She has gone from the seat of government's power, The Gulf victory her feat, Saddam's time her proud hour, Stripped of pomps clothes, She walks naked, 'ere dressed in invisible power.

Ivens admits that "it is no secret I am a fan of Mrs Thatcher but I did not write that. I have never written a poem in praise of Mrs Thatcher. And it was so awful. Even McGonagall did better."

Yesterday Ivens was penning complaints to the Independent Television Commission and considering legal action. Channel 4, meanwhile, was backing down. A spokesman says: "The assumption that it was written by Mr Ivens was mistaken. We are happy to remove it from tonight's repeat."

● Estate agents have been busy fielding enquiries from prospective buyers for Turner Prize winner Rachel Whiteread's solid concrete sculpture of a house in London's East End. For an agent's board sign has appeared beside it: "Luxury family house, all mod cons," it reads. Until the demolition men arrive next week, that is.

Foreign field

WATERLOO may still be fresh in the minds of some of the 2,300 members of the Cavalry and Guards Club, who include the Prince of Wales, but it is determinedly casting aside any lingering francophobia.

For the first time since it was established in 1890, the C&G is planning to establish a reciprocal membership deal with a club in

France. Members will be reassured, however, that Le Cercle de l'Union InterAllies is next door to the British Embassy.

Question of sex

NOT content with its camp Christmas season, which will see Quentin Crisp deliver a very distinctive speech, Channel 4 is taking political correctness a step further in the new year.

On Monday, it will announce plans for *Sabotage*, the first all-female quiz show in which teams of contestants pit their wits without fear of masculine interference. The mid-morning show will be hosted by Maria McElrath, whose role should prove less demanding, one suspects, than a previous appearance on the short-lived quiz show *Carnal Knowledge*. "I'm quite sure I won't find this one as exhausting," she says. "Not physically, anyway."

Neck and neck

REGULARS in Annie's Bar, a favourite Commons watering hole, predict stiff competition next week to nominate the most tasteless tie worn by an MP or lobby journalist. A plague of garish neckwear has broken out in the chamber as males compete for attention with colourful female MPs. An additional touch of drama is caused by

the disappearance from behind the bar of a previous winner — a ghastly specimen featuring high-kicking ladies. "Some pervert has stolen it," reports an outraged Terry Patchett, Labour MP for Barnsley East. The winner has the pleasure of buying all the regulars a round. Hardly surprising that women MPs are plotting to convert the bar into a ladies' changing room.

Motion sickness

A DISTINCTLY awkward exit loomed for Toby Lewis, who spoke in his last debate as Oxford Union president on Tuesday night. Even as he rose to support his motion, "This house would rather be wrong and romantic than right and repulsive", a union tribunal embarked on an all-night stint on an allegation of corruption.

Not against Lewis. No, the union's treasurer-elect, Joanna Carr, was accused (together with her mother) of breaking the rules in order to secure votes to gain office. Happily, all worked out well. Carr and her mother were cleared of any impropriety, Lewis won his debate and the male undergraduate who brought the charge was cleared of malicious intent. So has the event coloured Lewis's view of politics? "Not really. Politics generally can be rather mucky and grubby." Another lesson learnt.

Holes in the moral fabric

Jonathan Sacks on what the Bulger case must teach us

James Bulger is dead, but the debate his murder has provoked refuses to die. No candle we could light to his memory is more important than this.

Moral reflection needs time the way the human body needs oxygen. But time is the one thing of which we starve the great moral issues of our age. When James died the thing I most feared was a surge of attention — massive media coverage — followed by silence as the spotlight shifted and the next crisis filled the front pages. Our ethical seriousness is measured by our attention span, and ours has grown dangerously short. Blessedly, this has not happened. That is perhaps the best news to have emerged from this bleak and hellish tragedy. We rightly sensed that something more was at stake than the murder of a two-year-old child by ten-year-old children, a freak outbreak of unrestrained evil. There were larger issues, and we who had no part in the act none the less felt implicated.

That is not moral panic, but an honest recognition of the threads of collective responsibility that make society more than an aggregate of individuals. Together we form a moral entity. "Any man's death diminishes me," said John Donne. The fact that we felt personally diminished by James's death tells us that we are still morally alive.

Morality begins with law, and law is predicated on individual responsibility. But morality does not end there. Nor does James Bulger's death end with the trial and sentencing of his murderers. Though the murder itself was a cruel aberration, it had a social context. It was this. The moral fabric with which we clothe our children has grown threadbare. The holes have begun to show.

We have bestowed on our children a culture of violence, ritually celebrated at football grounds and on films and videos. Our children experience violence as street culture, as male initiation, even as quasi-religious catharsis. No society can allow this and survive. Violence has victims, and they are usually the most vulnerable and innocent.

We have systematically dismantled our structures of authority. Who, today, has survived our relentless iconoclasm? Politicians, religious leaders, the royal family, have been mercilessly savaged until there is no one left whose word carries moral force. We recognise public faces through their caricatures on *Spitting Image*. They have become figures of fun. In the process, we have robbed our children of any credible model of who we would wish them to be.

We have tolerated the collapse of the family. We have done so in the name of personal fulfilment, sexual liberty and the inalienable right to follow our desires. No abdication has had more fateful consequences. We have allowed the social stigma attaching to absconding fathers to disappear, assuming that their place could be taken by the state. But the state is not a person, and it is from people — especially parents — that we learn what it is to be moral. The result is lawless children who have to be restrained because they have not learnt restraint.

We have dissolved the bonds of community. The most piercing fact about James's death was the number of people who saw him being abducted and did not go to his rescue. We cannot blame them. The privatisation of morality has taught us not to interfere. This cannot continue. We need the support of neighbours, friends and an active community, none more so than mothers struggling to bring up children alone.

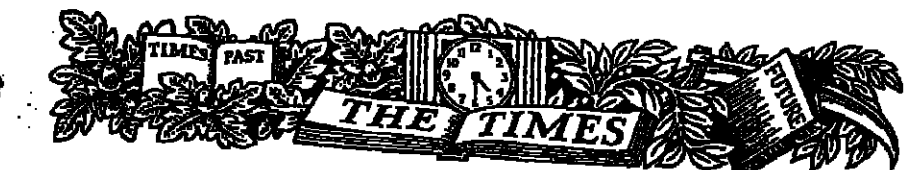
In teaching our children moral relativism we have placed them in the world without a moral compass, even hinting that there is no such thing. In the name of tolerance we have taught that every alternative lifestyle is legitimate and that moral judgment is taboo, even judgmental. What is right becomes what does not harm others, and in time degenerates to what I feel like doing and can get away with.

We have given children no framework within which to learn civic virtue and responsibility. We must devise ways by which service to the community becomes part of every child's experience of the growth to adulthood. Morality is taught by being lived. It is learnt by doing. Community work is more powerful than any formal moral instruction, even supposing an agreed curriculum could be devised. Nothing would more dramatically change our children's world. It will cost much to do it. But not to do it will ultimately cost more.

These are starting points for a debate that must continue until it reaches practical conclusions. The most important thing the government can now do is to establish a formal framework to take the argument further before interest dies. It should be non-political, and should acknowledge frankly that governments alone cannot change people. There are other agents of change in society. They include religious leaders and educators. If they are denigrated, moral renewal will fail. If they are enlisted, it may succeed.

We have reached a critical juncture in our social evolution. A political order based on liberty and tolerance has yielded a Britain significantly less tolerant and more violent, harsh and abrasive than the one my grandparents knew. A single, unspeakable tragedy has made us look at ourselves in the moral mirror, and what we have seen looks dishevelled and tired. A child has died. Our national soul must not die with him.

Dr Sacks is Chief Rabbi



BUDDY, WE CAN PARADIGM

An American idea that runs from Cabinet to classroom

This week *The Times* sponsored a political conference on a subject that was as unimportant in the electoral short-term as it will be critical for the future. The "new paradigm" is an idea that does not replace the vigorous challenge to the collectivist post-war state that was developed during the 1980s by conservative administrations in Britain and America. It recognises instead that, on top of those calls for individual self-reliance and private sector solutions to social problems, there needs to be a more complex and comprehensive theory of the state.

Amongst the speakers at the debate in London, organised in conjunction with the Social Market Foundation, was the former White House aide, James Pinkerton, who first coined the phrase "new paradigm" in 1990. Drawing on ideas of Thomas Kuhn, the philosopher of science, Mr Pinkerton argued that a broad shift of public attitude, equivalent to that following major scientific breakthroughs, was taking place within western democracies: although expectations of the state remained considerable, citizens were no longer prepared to pay high taxes. The demand was for higher standards of public service at the smallest possible public cost.

Mr Pinkerton claimed that a new model of government was needed, one which would be pluralist, decentralised and entrepreneurial, rather than bureaucratic, centrally managed and highly regulated. Public services needed to become responsive to their users; the variety of provision ought to be determined by public choice rather than official diktat. The "new paradigm" also needed to be seen for what it was: unless voters saw a genuine alternative to the old ways they would not embrace the new.

These ideas have been developed primarily in America — from the tax rebellions of California to the school reforms of East Harlem. But some of them have also been inspired by British public policy. In spite of their minor political impact here, the citizen's charter, market testing and public service reform are much admired in countries where reform has not advanced so far. The contracting out of central government services, which has already saved £100 million, and enhanced accountability of public services through league tables and

other published information, are clear examples of the thinking which Mr Pinkerton's colleagues are trying to encourage.

Yet because of British distaste for grand theory and political abstraction such measures are rarely considered systematically or in relation to best practice in other countries. The "new paradigm" approach is valuable not because it is beyond criticism — statecraft is always messier than theoreticians believe — but because it encourages such reflections. The experience of American local government, for example, suggests that choice is generally better than prescription at raising educational standards. This does not mean that the British idea of a national curriculum is misconceived; but it may suggest to policymakers in this country that the national curriculum should be confined to the essential core of educational skills, leaving considerable scope for local variation in the breadth of education. Parental choice might ultimately do more to raise standards of literacy and numeracy than central control of the syllabus.

Similarly, the new paradigm emphasis upon decentralisation, intermediary institutions and subsidiarity as the basis of good governance raises fundamental questions for British reformers. Britain, it has been said, is too small to be a true federation, too big to be a unitary state. The antics of far left, high-spending councils in the 1970s forced a confrontation which resulted in more centralisation of power and the transfer of many local authority functions to unelected quangos.

There is now a growing sense that this process of political enervation has gone too far: equally, there is no desire to go back to the municipal extremism that marred the running of big cities until the mid-1980s. The chaos on the London Underground last week was for many a symbol of the poverty of local government in this country and the need for fresh thinking. From the ruins of the old town hall must eventually arise a more pluralistic, accountable form of local governance, with an important role for business and the voluntary sector, as well as for elected politicians. This is still a distant prospect; but it must be a foundation stone of the complex new paradigm which, to its credit, this government has started to build.

CALCULATED RISK

Chris Patten has given China what must be its final chance

The trust of Hong Kong's people in British good faith has been severely tested in recent weeks. China's stonewalling on the modest proposals set out by Chris Patten more than a year ago, to give Hong Kong a more democratic and accountable legislature has been common knowledge for months. When, after 15 rounds of talks in which Britain had offered deep concessions without reward, Mr Patten flew to London for last month's meeting of the cabinet committee dealing with Hong Kong, a decision to press ahead with electoral legislation was widely expected. Douglas Hurd's announcement, of further talks was equally widely seen as a British retreat.

The following two rounds showed that China now believed it held the whip hand. Peking withdrew virtually all the concessions, minor though they were, it had offered just before the London meeting. Britain's choice lay between breaking off talks, or letting China dictate the pace of negotiations. It shows no sign of intending to conclude, or the middle course adopted by Mr Patten yesterday. Hong Kong's Legislative Council will be asked to deal now with the "uncontroversial" aspects of the 1994 and 1995 elections — such as scrapping appointed seats in local government and lowering the voting age to 18, as it is in China — while Britain continues to press for Chinese agreement to the rest of the Patten reforms.

On the face of it, Mr Patten might seem to have risked the worst of worlds, irritating China without giving heart to the majority in Hong Kong which has consistently — although with less certainty as doubts have

grown about Britain's determination — supported more democratic government. But he has to balance these aspirations against the palpable popular preference for a negotiated solution — provided it is consistent with a "high degree of autonomy" for Hong Kong post-1997.

The predictable Chinese reaction has been to say that Mr Patten's "unilateral" action amounts to breaking off talks. But China made similar threats last March in a failed attempt to prevent the gazetting of the full legislative package, and then agreed to negotiate. If, as seems probable despite the blackmail China is already exerting, this limited legislation passes LegCo — which has already voted in principle in favour of the proposals it contains — Peking may at last realise that Britain is serious about proceeding if there is no agreement.

Mr Patten risks appearing irresolute by offering yet more talks. Given Chinese stalling on minor points, few people expect agreement on the important issues. If China declines, or spins talks out, he must table the rest of his plan soon — and fight for it like the politician he is. He is obliged to legislate under the terms of the 1984 Sino-British Declaration, in which China, after all, committed itself to a legislature "constituted by elections". Mr Patten's reforms simply convert that commitment into a system giving Hong Kong voters a genuine choice. A legislature with a secure popular mandate is integral to the rule of law on which Hong Kong's social and commercial achievements are based. It is in the real political interest of Hong Kong's people. That is the bottom line.

BLITHE SPIRITS

Some birds are threatened, but the dawn chorus sings on

Birdsong is one of mankind's primal delights. Birdwatching is a widespread and absorbing hobby binding people of every age and profession in a common enthusiasm for the study, preservation and admiration of birds. Around 850,000 people are members of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, one of the natural world's wealthiest and most powerful charities.

The latest RSPB report therefore makes alarming reading. It finds that crimes against wild birds have risen by a fifth in the past five years. Buzzards, hen harriers and peregrine falcons have been shot and destroyed. Poisoning is on the increase, egg-collecting and illegal taxidermy are still widespread, and the society has received scores of reports of trapping, sale or illegal possession of wild birds.

The report comes hard on the heels of a comprehensive new ornithological atlas, which documents the rapid disappearance of the skylark and other birds that breed on farmland. Autumn sowing, an increasing practice, means that fields of post-harvest stubble, rich in grain and weed seeds, are ploughed up almost at once instead of being left to feed birds during winter. Along with the nightingale, also a dwindling species, the

skylark must number among the most celebrated songbirds whose distinctive notes are the quintessence of an English summer.

Other species face other threats. The draining of marshes and farming of wetlands is an ever-present danger, only partly offset by the heroic efforts of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust to establish sanctuaries and preserve habitats. The rooting out of hedgerows and the use of herbicides have decimated some species. Pollution, urbanisation and tourism have taken their toll.

Yet the picture is not entirely bleak. Britain has some of the strongest laws on bird protection anywhere in the world. Many birds are adaptable, and the latest census shows a halt in the decline of many species and a healthy rise in the numbers of others. As farming contracts, the potential of set-aside schemes is enormous. Birds of prey are making a come-back.

The greatest hope of all is that a nation of bird-watchers may turn all of Britain, not just the reserves, into a sanctuary. With an estimated 87 million pairs, the dawn chorus still rings out over the countryside. Britain should now do what it can to restore birdsong to the killing fields in Italy, Spain and the Middle East.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Peace talks and Mayhew revelations

From Sir Charles Tidbury

Sir, Everyone will be wishing Mr Major and Mr Reynolds well in their meeting. The people in the Irish Republic and in Northern Ireland, if opinion polls are to be relied on, want a solution to be found but they do not want a solution which gives in to the rule of the gun.

Two points stick out as problems: majority rule must be maintained in Northern Ireland; clauses 2 and 3 in the Republic's Constitution give the gangsters an excuse for terrorism.

If clauses 2 and 3 were renounced and an economically viable Ireland was pursued within Europe, this could make for greater prosperity and there would be no question of political unity unless and until that was wanted by all sides. The Unionists, therefore, would have nothing to fear.

Perhaps the main problem that has to be resolved is that all parties must renounce violence.

I say this, having visited Northern Ireland and Dublin, and having been involved in the situation and taken a great interest in it. I believe there is a will. Let us hope a way can be found.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES TIDBURY,

Brooks, St James's Street, SW1.

December 2.

From Mr Esmond Birnie

Sir, The distinction between a prolonged exchange of notes through "chains of communication" (report, November 29) and face-to-face negotiation is a very fine one which will be lost on most of the public. What is certain is that members of the Conservative party in Northern Ireland have had their stomachs turned by the revelation of Sir Patrick Mayhew's dealings with IRA/Sinn Féin.

Some would accept that realpolitik implies that governments should sometimes lie, but in this case the real tragedy is that Sir Patrick has handed the IRA a propaganda victory. This will, I fear, give renewed vigour to its campaign of destruction. Sadly, the so-called loyalist terrorists will also read the lesson that violence can pay.

Sir Patrick has acted in a secretive and irresponsible fashion and should go.

Yours faithfully,

ESMOND BIRNIE

(Vice-Chairman), South Belfast

Conservative Association,

PO Box 112, Belfast BT9 5GG.

December 1.

Ferranti collapse

From Mr Jonathan Miller and Mrs Carol Sokol

Sir, As two of the 143 employees at the head office of Ferranti International, all facing redundancy, we wish to place on record our disgust at the performance of Mr John Katz, chairman of the Ferranti Shareholders' Support Association, during the recently failed GEC bid for Ferranti (report, December 2).

Before any other unsuspecting shareholders enlist his help, they should consider the following:

1. Mr Katz incorrectly encouraged shareholders to believe that there could be an alternative to both the GEC offer and receivership, although it is now, we believe, apparent that this could never have been a practical proposition.
2. Ferranti shareholders, who stood to receive in total approximately £12 million under the GEC offer, will now receive nothing.
3. The majority of Ferranti's 3,000 employees will be made redundant just three weeks before Christmas.

GEC clearly have their own reasons for withdrawing the offer. Equally clearly, the misguided actions of Mr Katz have at the very least assisted the shareholders, employees or creditors of Ferranti.

We believe that Mr Katz owes all parties concerned an apology. Unfortunately this will not help us to buy Christmas presents for our families.

Yours faithfully,

JONATHAN MILLER

(Group Internal Audit Manager),

CAROL SOKOL

(Secretary, Legal Department),

Ferranti International plc,

Concord Business Park,

Wythenshawe,

Manchester 22.

December 2.

Burgess's last book

From Mr Anthony Whitmore

Sir, A Mouthful of Air was not, as stated in your obituary of Anthony Burgess (November 26), his last book. Earlier this year Hutchinson published A Dead Man in Deptford, his ambitious and astonishingly energetic novel about Christopher Marlowe, which was described by your own reviewer as "a major achievement, comic, terrifying and very moving".

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY WHITMORE

(Editorial Director),

Hutchinson,

Random House,

20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1.

November 26.

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Budget raises fresh tax questions

From Mr A. Scholfield

Sir, Can the Chancellor of the Exchequer explain to me, as a businessman, why I should expand my business when, with base rate at 5½ per cent, the bank will charge me a 3½ per cent margin plus a 1 per cent arrangement fee on a loan plus an insurance policy I do not want (commission to the bank) plus a hefty fee of management time to discuss the loan — i.e., in total, at least another 5½ per cent, or a total cost of 11 per cent when inflation is 2 per cent.

How many business projects offer a real rate of return of 9 per cent?

Yours faithfully,

A. SCHOLFIELD (Chairman),

The London Store Ltd.,

2/6 Quadrant Arcade,

80 Regent Street, W1.

December 1.

From Mr Adrian Baird

Sir, Kenneth Clarke proposes to restrict the capital gains tax indexation allowance so that the allowance cannot create or augment an allowable capital loss. This measure is aimed at the perceived tax avoidance of losses created on cash deposits. Was it beyond the ingenuity of the Inland Revenue to simply exclude cash and similar deposits from the allowance?

Instead, all taxpayers are to be penalised in a way that goes against Conservative tax policy repeatedly stated for over a decade. For example, when in 1985 the Finance Act introduced indexation on losses passed through standing committee, the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Peter Rees (now Lord Rees), stated (Hansard, May 8, 1985, col 817):

After all, our great economic institutions often start as small risky enterprises... Of course we all want good investments in both private and public capacity, but... there is a risk dimension to investment. While recognising the imperfections and weaknesses of our judgment in this area, we think it is fair to cream off a modest amount of real gains for the state and to afford relief for real losses. That is the underlying philosophy...

It is manifestly fair that, if indexed gains are to be taxed, real, indexed losses should be allowed in full. To do otherwise is to simply reduce the reward from risk and entrepreneurial investment.

Yours faithfully,

ADRIAN BAIRD

(Chief Taxation Adviser),

Country Landowners Association,

16 Belgrave Square, SW1.

December 2.

From Mrs Margaret O'Brien

Sir, Will someone please tell the Chancellor and the Treasury that a married woman with two children is not a non-working spouse, only a non-earning spouse, trying to put into practice the "family values" the government preaches.

If the government were really prepared to put its money where its mouth is, personal allowances would be fully transferable, and the tax tables which you publish today would show middle-income families with a sole earner facing the lowest, not the highest percentage increases in tax bills in 1994-5.

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET O'BRIEN,

6 Willow Drive,

Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

December 1.

From Mr Andrew Murray

Sir, The Chancellor asks why the bus driver or pensioner of today should pay the living costs of tomorrow's lawyers.

In view of the dire lack of available training contracts for solicitors, many qualified trainees will finish their studies with large debts and little prospect of employment in their chosen profession. It would not surprise me in the least to see many of them gratefully employed as bus drivers.

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW MURRAY,

Flat 1a, 3 Hartington Road,

Lozells, Birmingham 19.

December 1.

From Mr Paul van Veen

Sir, To me, as an 18-year-old student, the answer to the Chancellor is quite simple: since we live in a rapidly greying society, without full employment, the future generation of taxpayers must be high earners in order to pay the pensions of tomorrow's bus drivers and politicians.

Yours obediently,

PAUL VAN VEEN,

105 Highlands Heath,

Putney Heath, SW15.

December 1.

From Mr J. I. M. Rhodes

Sir, Is the new "Grammy" bond politically correct?

Yours faithfully,

J. I. M. RHODES,

Quintins, Watersfield, West Sussex.

December 1.

Europe monitors Russian elections

From Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, MEP for York (Conservative, European People's Party Group)

Sir, Your leader, "Politics Russian style" (November 29), reflected suspicion that President Yeltsin is manipulating the media for the Russian elections on December 12. I think it was premature.

I was in Moscow in early October during the battle for the White House and believe it is essential for Russia's stability and the world's peace of mind that these elections — perhaps the most important since the second world war — are seen to be as free and fair as possible. Effectively, they are being conducted in a state of emergency.

That is why I and others caused an independent media monitoring team of experienced West European journalists to be sent to Russia recently. The media audit is part of the European Union's first joint action under the new common foreign and security policy.

Other activities include providing a Moscow coordination centre for inter-

national poll observers and technical equipment for the Electoral Commission. These are financed, at a cost of 600,000 euros (about £500,000), out of the European democracy initiative created by the European Parliament.

The Düsseldorf-based European Media Institute is working, with the agreement of the Russian election authorities, in Moscow, St Petersburg and five other cities, monitoring radio, press and television output. It may make its concerns known to those involved at any time.

In addition to gathering statistical information, the institute's team will be interviewing leading political and media figures before coming to any conclusions. It will give its initial view after the polls close and produce a preliminary report before Christmas.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD McMILLAN-SCOTT

(Conservative spokesman on foreign affairs and security),

European Parliament,

Rue Belliard,

Brussels 1040.

December 1.

Inadequate bail record

From the Chief Crown Prosecutor

Sir, I have some good news for Mr Ian Baker (letter, November 23). Effective attention to the practical problems of providing bail records has been, and continues to be, given.

It is for the prosecution to provide the information to the courts which Mr Baker rightly says the magistrates need. But the Crown Prosecution Service relies on information supplied to us by the police and we can only do so if the police-administered national and local record systems are up to date.

Any disputes there may have been over the provision of court results (which include details of bail granted) were resolved some time ago. A working group on pre-trial issues concluded three years ago that courts should provide these results direct to the police, who pass the information on to us when necessary.

Identifying police

From Councillor P. H. Twyman

Sir, The home secretary has authorised tests of the US-style police baton, which extends with a flick to 24 inches. This should go some way to giving the police the protection they need, and with over 17,000 officers assaulted each year they do need better protection.

There is, however, another dimension which the home secretary needs to address. Regrettably, a minority of police officers misbehave. Very occasionally they assault members of the public. One of the problems which

arise when investigations are made in these circumstances is that of identifying the officers responsible.

If the police are going to be given enhanced weaponry I suggest that the home secretary should adopt another practice from the United States and insist that the police wear clear name badges, instead of the tiny numerals on their uniforms. These would assist identification and also fit in neatly with the citizen's charter and customer-service principles which the police say they wish to espouse.

Yours faithfully,

PAUL TWYMAN,

Thrill House, Minnis Road,

Birchington, Kent.

Judgment on Levitt

From Mr Geoffrey Goldkorn

Sir, I write as solicitor for Mr Roger Levitt. The recent press reports of his trial have been grossly unfair both to him and the judge. As a result the public has not appreciated the truth of the case — as the letters which you publish today demonstrate.

In effect, Mr Levitt pleaded guilty to misleading Fibra for a period of just under a month. He then voluntarily made a full confession and resigned. Fibra took no action against him at the time. Mr Levitt's guilty plea was made on the basis that no one suffered any loss.

The judge has now confirmed that his sentence was based on the fact that Mr Levitt had not cheated "anybody out of any money whatsoever" (report, December 2).

The fact is the prosecution accepted Mr Levitt's plea. The correct inference to be drawn, I suggest, is that they did so because they believed he had every likelihood of being acquitted.

Yours truly,

GEOFFREY GOLDKORN,

6 Coptic Street, Bloomsbury, WCI.

December 2.

Place names

From Mr Geoffrey Sampson

Sir, "In Spanish," Philip Howard tells us ("What's in a name?", November 26), "a native of the Argentine could be an Argentinian only if the country were called Argentina". Well, but English is not Spanish. English regularly treats the *i* of the *-ian* suffix as part of the suffix, not part of the stem: witness Christian from Christ, Etrurian from Etrus.

Philip Howard suggests that it may be patronising for the British to adapt foreign names to our language. In practice it is the ostentatious refusal to do so that seems to be associated with a patronising attitude.

No one dreams of calling Germany "Deutschland" or Spain "España" while speaking English — it is the inhabitants of distant countries which would until recently have been described as backward or uncivilised who receive this awkward gesture. There is more genuine respect in speaking of Ceylon or White Russia rather than "Sri Lanka" or "Belarus".

Yours faithfully,

GEOFFREY SAMPSON,

Mountain Ash,

Firewood Rise,

Heathfield, Sussex.

November 26.

From Mr John Hunsworth

Sir, Would Evita have been so successful if the composer had scored "Don't whine for me, Argentine"?

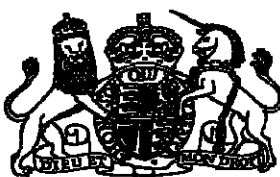
Yours faithfully,

JOHN HUNSORTH,

29 West Hill,

Sanderstead, Surrey.

November 26.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 2: Mr Justice Blackburne was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

The Viscount Astor was received by The Queen and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Lord of Writings to Her Majesty.

The Lord Mackay of Ardrach was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Austria to the Court of St James's.

Mr Alex Miller (winner of the Commonwealth Writers Prize) was received by The Queen, Dr Humayun Khan (Director of Commonwealth Foundation) was present.

Mr Richard Wilson (Permanent Secretary, Department of the Environment) was received by Her Majesty.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended the Annual Reception of the Nikaean Club at Lambeth Palace and were received by the Chairman (Sir Peter Marshall) and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Duchess of Gloucester, the Rt Hon Sir Robert Fellowes and Lieutenant Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

By command of The Queen, Mr Peter Nelson (Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex) was present.

Catwalk Report this evening upon the Departure of The Duchess of Kent for the Seychelles and bade farewell to Her Royal Highness on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 2: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, today gave a Luncheon at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 2: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon attended a Royal Reception and Luncheon at Mary Datchelor House, 17 Grove Lane, Camberwell, London SE5.

Mrs Andrew Feldman was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Dunn Nutrition Centre, later opened the centre's interim research facilities for clinical nutritional research at New Addenbrookes Hospital, Hills Road, Cambridge, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, accompanied by Commander Timothy Laurence RN, this evening attended a Reception and City Dinner at the Bank of England, London EC2.

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 2: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present this evening at 'Advent in Knightsbridge', a concert to launch the St Paul's Church Appeal, held at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, SW1.

The Countess Alexander of Tunis was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 2: The Duke of Gloucester this morning presented the Ministry of Defence Civilian Apprenticeship Awards for 1993 at the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London SW1.

Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
December 2: The Duke of Kent this evening attended the Army Board Dinner at Her Majesty's Tower of London, London EC3.

Mr Nicholas Adamson was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this evening departed London Gatwick for the Republic of the Seychelles.

Mrs Peter Troughton was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
December 2: Princess Alexandra, Deputy Honorary Colonel, this evening visited the Headquarters of The Royal Weymouth at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Kings Road, London SW3.

Rear Admiral Sir John Garnier was in attendance.

Framlingham College
The Governors of Framlingham College, Suffolk have appointed Mrs Gwendolen Randall, Deputy Head of Dauntsey's School, Wiltshire, to succeed Mr James Miller, who takes over as Headmaster of the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, in September 1994.

St Dunstan's Abbey, Plymouth
The Old Girls' Association of St Dunstan's Abbey, Plymouth, will hold a Carol Service and Buffet Supper in the Chapel on Wednesday, December 14, at 7.30pm. (Tel: 0752 663998 for information).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 2: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Army Air Corps, received Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Simkins upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 4th Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel David Joyce upon assuming the appointment.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning held a meeting at St James's Palace with major employers of young people to discuss The Prince's Trust Volunteers programme.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Regiment of Wales, subsequently received Lieutenant Colonel Mervyn Lloyd upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer 4th Battalion.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Knitish Town to see the work of neighbourhood Energy Action and attended a Reception to mark Conservation Week at the Interchange Studios, Dalby Street, London NW5.

Mr Matthew Butler was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales later presented the Binney Memorial Award at Goldsmiths' Hall, London EC2.

Commander Robert Fraser RN was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, this evening gave a Reception for sponsors of the Urban Villages Forum at St James's Palace.

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Sir Colin Davis, the conductor, and Joyce Nixon, violinist, at a rehearsal yesterday of the Berlin opera *The Trojans*, which the London Symphony Orchestra is presenting at the Barbican Centre, London. The first performance, in two parts, will be on Saturday and Sunday. It is 20 years since Sir Colin performed the work

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit HMS *Lancaster* in the Pool of London at 12.15.

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend the launching of HMCS *Sentinel* at Portsmouth Shipyard, Hampshire, at 11.00.

The Prince of Wales, as President of Business in the Community, will attend a meeting with business leaders and community representatives, who have participated in the Seeing is Believing programme, at St James's Palace at 1.00.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the Headway National Head Injuries Association, will attend a luncheon at the London Hilton on Park Lane at 12.30. The Princess Royal, as Patron of the British School of Osteopathy, will attend a graduation ceremony at St Martin-in-the-Fields at 10.00, and will open the new Inter-Action Centre, a new centre for the elderly, at 11.00.

Princess Margaret, as president, NSPCC, will visit the Devon Child Protection Centre at Mannam Road, Plymouth, at 4.10, and will attend a dinner at the Mount House Hotel at 7.30 in aid of the society.

The Duchess of Gloucester will visit Dalton Abbey House for the elderly at Dalton-in-Furness at 11.20, will visit Kendal College, Kendal, at 12.30, and will open the Georgian House, probation office and resource centre, at Lowther Street, Carlisle, at 3.00.

The Duke of Kent, as vice-chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit Dennis Specialist Vehicles at Slyfield Industrial Estate, Surrey, at 11.00, as Chancellor of Surrey University, will preside at the conferment of degrees ceremony in Guildford Cathedral at 12.45 and will attend a dinner for university graduates at the university.

Binney Memorial Medal
The Prince of Wales presented the Binney Memorial Medal for bravery in support of law and order in the Metropolitan to Mrs Marjorie Coadie at a ceremony held yesterday at Goldsmiths' Hall. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoresse, accompanied by the Sheriff and their ladies, attended.

Memorial services

Mr R.W.P. Luff
The Lord Mayor was represented by Commander and Alderman Sir Robin Gillett at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Richard William Peter (Dick) Luff yesterday at St Lawrence Jewry-nest-Guildhall. The Rev David Burgess officiated. Mr C. Lewis, President of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, and Mr Tim Robertson, Chartered Surveyors' Company, read the lessons. Mr Deputy Richard Saunders gave an address.

Mr Silvio Trompetto
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Silvio Trompetto was held yesterday in the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. The Rev John Robson officiated, assisted by Canon Charles McCowan. Mr Tony Elliott read the lesson and Mr Michael Trompetto, son, read from the works of Canon Henry Scott Holland. Mr Beverly Griffin gave an address.

Service dinners

Army Legal Services
The Deputy Colonel Commandant Adjutant General's Corps (Army Legal Services), the Director of Army Legal Services and Officers of Army Legal Services held a dinner last night at RANM Headquarters Mess. Colonel T.B. Wright presided. The Judge Advocate General of the Army and RAF attended.

Aberdeen, Dundee, St Andrews Universities' Air Squadrons
Air Marshal Sir John Willis was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Aberdeen, Dundee and St Andrews Universities' Air Squadrons held last night at RAF Leuchars. Squadron Leader M.J. Fairbairn presided.

Imperial Cancer Research Fund
The Imperial Cancer Research Fund is delighted to announce that The Queen, as its patron, has agreed that the name of The Princess Margaret Cancer Fund be submitted to its next Annual General Meeting in April 1994 for appointment as President of the Fund in place of the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, KCVO, who has served in that role with such distinction for the last 30 years.

Buckingham Palace luncheon

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday held a luncheon at Buckingham Palace. The guests were: Miss Christine Hancock (general secretary, Royal College of Nursing), Miss Gayle Hummich (actress), Dr Oscar Craig (former president, Royal College of Radiologists), the Hon Robin Don (chairman, Northern Ireland Railways Council 1991), Mr Charles Nunnally (deputy-chairman, Robert Fleming Holdings), Professor Mahmud Shah (international trustee, World Council of Hindus) and Mr Gordon Wilson (father of the late Marie Wilson).

Birthdays today

The Marquess of Ailes, 68; Mr Trevor Bailey, cricketer, 70; Mr Ralph Bennett, former chairman, London Transport Executive, 70; Professor Ian Butterworth, former principal, Queen Mary and Westfield College, 63; Mr Charles Craig, actor, 74; Mr Mike Gifford, film director, 63; Sir William Harpham, diplomat, 63; Mr Maxwell Hutchinson, architect, 45; Sir Brian Jenkins, former G.S. Kirk, professor of Greek, 72; Mr Franz Klammer, skier, 53; Miss Tanya Moisewitch, theatrical designer, 79; Mr Paul Nicholas, singer and actor, 48; Mr Victor Pinner, CBE, artist, 80; Mr Robert Phillips, deputy director-general, 48; Mr Mel Smith, actor and comedian, 41; Professor P. Toynbe, vice-chancellor, Liverpool John Moores University, 54; Mr Andy Williams, singer, 63.

District judges
The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has appointed Gordon Young Lingard to be joint district judge for the London, Middlesex, Kent and Surrey, and the High Court at Kingston and the High Court at Kingston and the High Court at Kingston and the High Court at Kingston.

Dinner

Army Board
The Duke of Kent was the guest of honour at an Army Board dinner held last night at HM Tower of London. Mr Jonathan Aitken, Minister of State Defence Procurement, was host. Among those present were: Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG, and Lady Bramall, Lady Soames, Lieutenant-General the Hon Sir John and Lady Stanier, General Sir Peter and Lady Inge, General Sir Michael and Lady Wilkes, General Sir George and Lady Cooper, General Sir Edward and Lady Jones, Lieutenant-General Sir Jeremy and Lady Blacker, Lieutenant-General Sir Peter and Lady Duffell, Lady Gidrie, Lieutenant-Commander Sir Richard and Lady Buckley, Sir Christopher and Lady France, Mr Marmaduke and Lady Susan Sussex, Mr and Mrs Moray Westcott, Mr and Mrs Christopher Tyler, Major-General and Mrs Michael Walker, Canon and Mrs Gervase Murphy, Mr and Mrs John Keegan and Mr Nicolas Adamson.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Robert Bloomfield, poet, Hoxington, Suffolk, 1706; Samuel Crompton, inventor of the spinning mule, Farnworth, Lancashire, 1733; Clarkson Stanfield, theatre, marine and landscape artist, Sunderland, 1793; Sir Rowland Hill, originator of the penny post, Kiddersminster, 1795; Robert Stephen Hawker, poet, Stoke Damerel, Devon, 1803; Frederic Leighton, Baron Leighton, President of the Royal Academy 1876-96, Scarborough, 1830; Joseph Conrad, novelist, British, 1857; Anton von Webern, composer, Vienna, 1883; Rajendra Prasad, first President of the Republic of India 1950-63, Zerai, Bihar, 1884.

DEATHS: Francis Xavier, missionary, Shanghai, China, 1552; Robert Montgomery, poet, Brighton, 1835; Robert Louis Stevenson, writer, Samoa, 1894; Mary Baker Eddy, founder of The Church of Christ, Scientist, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, 1910; Pierre Renoir, painter, Cagnes, France, 1919.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.R. Ashworth and Miss D.M. Snyder
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Colin Ashworth, of Shaw, Oldham, and Dalene, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Snyder, of Toronto, Canada.

Dr S. Cockroft and Miss M.K. Baxter
The engagement is announced between Stephen, eldest son of Mr and Mrs H. Cockroft, of Bishops Cleeve, Devon, and Karen, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D.M. Baxter, of Icken Abbas, Hants.

Mr S. de Cleene and Miss O.A. Stevens
The engagement is announced between Sean, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Ron de Cleene, of Ribstone, Australia, and Olivia Anna, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Stevens, of Martins Meadow, Yelverton, Devon.

Mr J.P. Millward and Miss L.V. Cammings
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. Paul Millward, of Churchill, Avon, and Lucy, younger daughter of Mrs Joy Cammings, of Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Mr M.P. Penny and Miss R.C. Pearce
The engagement is announced between Paul, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Penny, of Credon, Devon, and Rachel, eldest daughter of Professor and Mrs John Pearce, of Leicester.

Mr G.B. Catford and Miss K. Franklin
The engagement is announced between Gordon B. Catford and Kim Franklin, of Highgate, London.

Mr J.O. Nesbitt and Miss F.H.C.Z. de Ferranti
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr Patrick Nesbitt and the late Mrs Nesbitt, of Eisted, West Sussex, and Francesca, younger daughter of Mr Sebastian de Ferranti and Mrs Nicholas Payne, of Hembury, Cheshire.

Mr M. Newton and Miss F.J. Pickup
The engagement is announced between Maurice, only son of Mr and Mrs Derek Newton, of Solihull, West Midlands, and Fiona, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Pickup, of Bramhall, Cheshire.

Dr A.J. Riddoch and Miss V.S.A. Pennyhoop
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs D.V. Riddoch, of Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, and Sally Anne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs L.B. Pennyhoop, of Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan.

Mr J.M. Stalley and Miss S.G. Dean
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Stalley, of Asco, Berkshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Dean, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr W.P.F. Tyler and Miss E.J. Sullivan
The engagement is announced between William, son of Major-General and Mrs Christopher Tyler, of Queen's House, HM Tower of London, and Juliet, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Sullivan, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Piping championship

The twentieth Glenfiddich Piping Championship, which took place on October 30 in the Hall at Blair Castle, is a contest for pipers considered to be among the best in the world. But this year many people were surprised, and evidently disappointed, by a break with tradition. Hitherto those invited to compete have won the highest awards during the current year. This year the winners of the major prizes at both Oban and Inverness were excluded.

Even the Glenfiddich Championship has not remained untouched by the controversy over piping judges. By way of compromise, the contest was judged by non-APA judges, and the cool moor was judged by members of the APA.

While none of the ten tunes in the cool moor was such as to leave one with that feeling of awe and fulfillment that a truly great performance creates, these were, none the less, ten good tunes, but for one choice and one drone failure. The criticisms of them were matters of detail: they were, after all, played by pipers who have won every prize open to them.

The winner of the Highland Society of London's trophy for cool moor was Jack Lee, from Canada, who played the Lament for the Earl of Arnhem. In second place, William MacCallum gave an excellent and vigorous performance of The Battle of Auldern (No 2). Michael Cusack, from Texas, took third place with Lachlan MacCallum, Campbell of Kintyre's Fancy, a tune about which little is known but that it was greatly esteemed and often played by Lachlan MacCallum.

The overall winner, for his second time, was William MacCallum, with Jack Lee in second place and Michael Cusack in third. The Championship Trophy and other prizes were presented by the Duke of Atholl.

The judges for the cool moor were William MacCallum (Benbecula), Malcolm MacRae, and Angus MacCallum. John D. Burgess, John MacKenzie, John D. Burgess, and Iain MacFadyen, Bear an Tigh were MacLean MacLeod, President of the United States Piping Foundation.

Miss Betty Clarke

Services of thanksgiving for the life of Miss Betty Clarke, CVO, Headmistress of Benenden 1954-1975, will take place at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, on Tuesday, February 8, at 3.30pm, and at St George's, Benenden, on Sunday, February 13, at 11.30am. All friends and seniors are very welcome. Please apply to the School Secretary, Benenden School, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 4AA, for tickets.

Dinner

Company of Makers of Playing Cards
The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoresse, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the installation dinner of the Company of Makers of Playing Cards held last night at the Mansion House. The Master, Mr C.J.F. Latham, presided. The Lord Mayor, Sir Edward Heath, KG, MP, and Mr E.B.H. Chappell, Senior Warden, also spoke.

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FAX: 071 782 7828

You received the law given by God's angels and yet you have not kept it (Acts of the Apostles 7: 53)

BIRTHS

ALLIN-JONES - On November 26th to Jeremy and Deborah (née Harrison) a son Edward Henry, brother for Tom and Ben.

BAKER-MURTON - On November 22nd to Nicola (née Blason) and Kristin, a daughter Kate.

BEVAN - On 1st December 1993 to Hong Kong to Henrietta (née Wray) and Hugh, a son Rufus Frederick, a brother for Henry and Nicholas.

HENLEY - On November 26th to John's College Hospital to Sonia (née Whelan) and Christopher, a lovely daughter Naiaha Elizabeth, a sister for Harry.

NER-DUNN - On November 30th to Sarah (née Lynne) and Anthony, a son, Frederick John (Freddie), a brother for George and Will.

MACLEAN - To Heather and Pippa (née Hunter), born 24th November 1993, a son, Nathaniel Hunter, born 24th November 1993.

MAGRATH - On 1st December to Emma (née Lewis) and Patrick, a daughter Ella Elizabeth, her new best friend.

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SEAGRAVE - On November 26th, in Tottenham, to Anthony (née Jeffrey) and David a daughter, Natalie Claire, a sister for Isabelle.

STRAITHCLIFFE - On December 1st to Thomas and Jane a daughter, Sophie Elizabeth May, a sister for Eleanor.

WYBURN - On November 30th, to Kate (née Windsor) and Francis, a daughter, Sophie Elizabeth May, a sister for Eleanor.

DEATHS

ANDERMAN - On November 28th 1993, Commander Anthony Charles Anderman, 82, D.S.C., R.N. aged 85, in his sleep at Court Lodge Nursing Home, Much loved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Buried at St. Michael's Church, London. Private funeral. Donations to the Royal British Legion, 100, Victoria Road, Richmond, Surrey. Tel: 0752 672000.

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR BERNARD BOTHMER

Bernard Bothmer, Lila Acheson Wallace Professor of Ancient Egyptian Art at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, died on November 24 aged 81. He was born in Charlottenburg, Berlin, on October 13, 1912.

TRAVELLING the world, ransacking the museums of America, Europe and Egypt, Bernard Bothmer, brought to light a vast quantity of fine Late Egyptian sculpture, most of which had lain neglected in dusty reserves. A pioneering exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum, "Egyptian Sculpture of the Late Period" in 1960 opened the eyes of Egyptologists, and of the general public, to a hitherto largely undervalued, and in many cases unknown, series of works from the last seven centuries of ancient Egyptian history. The catalogue of this exhibition provided Bothmer with the chance to set out his views — still somewhat provisional — on this rich material. It remains one of the most significant publications on Egyptian art from the last fifty years.

Bernard Wilhelm von Bothmer was the elder son of Wilhelm von Bothmer and Marie Julie Auguste Karoline Baroness von und zu Eglöfstein.

Without completing a university degree he was taken into the Egyptian Museum in Berlin by his learned and influential director, Heinrich Schafer, in 1932. There he learnt about Egyptian art from the leading practitioners in the field, and in the environment of a great collection of Egyptian antiquities. His six years in Berlin were, however, blighted by the political climate of the times and the overt Nazi sympathies of many of his colleagues. The details of his leaving Germany in 1938 remain somewhat obscure — he did not readily talk of those times — but it is evident that his anti-Nazi stance and his sympathies for those who were already suffering under National Socialism, prompted a hasty departure, first to France, then to Switzerland, and finally (by means undisclosed) to Portugal where he was able to take ship to America.

Although born into a distinguished Prussian family, Bernard Bothmer turned his back on his German past after reaching America. By then a stateless person, he enlisted in the United States Army, served in Europe, took American citizenship, and thereafter became a committed American. He never failed to be grateful for the welcome he had received in his new country, and for the opportunities he was afforded to pursue his chosen career. And yet he remained very much



a German in his bearing, and in his general way of life, especially in his discipline in matters scholarly.

After the war Bothmer served as an assistant curator in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, from 1946, and then in the Brooklyn Museum from 1956, becoming curator of the Department of Ancient Art in 1963. His special interest in the art of the later periods of Egyptian history led him in 1952 to begin the project which was to dominate the rest of his career, the Corpus of Late-Egyptian Sculpture.

Sadly, he never published the Corpus, as he had first intended; he converted it into an unparalleled research archive, based in the Brooklyn Museum, enriched with his own comments and a wealth of photographs, most of which were taken by himself. In later years he worked on a volume of Late-Egyptian sculpture in the Cairo Museum, collaborating with his long-time associate in the Corpus, Professor H. De Meulenaere of Ghent and Brussels, but he seemed to lack the determination to complete it.

Bothmer's mature views on all aspects of Egyptian art, from Predynastic to Roman times, were contained in a series of authoritative articles and, above all, in his lectures and classes. From the time he went to Brooklyn he began to teach Egyptian art at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University. He was an inspired teacher, a brilliant expositor of the products of all periods of Egyptian antiquity; he never spared himself in satisfying the needs of his students, ever ready to discuss problems, infinitely kind and understanding, but severe over carelessness and imprecision; devoted to the writing of good and clear English, and a tyrant over the proper use of punctuation. The advice he offered was always unequivocal and stated *ex cathedra*; disagreement was not readily welcomed, but if a contrary case could be made, he could concede gracefully.

A great many of the art-historians now at work in the Egyptian field owe their training to him, and his legacy of a lifetime's devotion to Egyptian art

resides to a very great extent in their achievements.

On retirement from the Brooklyn Museum in 1978, he became a full professor at the Institute of Fine Arts, and he remained incumbent in that position until his death. His lectures attracting remarkable audiences, including graduate students, senior museum colleagues, and wealthy collectors. His professorial chair had been specially endowed for him by his many friends and supporters.

Bernard Bothmer inspired strong responses in people. He could be highly critical, some might say unreasonably so at times. He abhorred casual behaviour, lack of commitment, charlatanism and illiberal attitudes — intolerance should be reserved for matters of real importance like an incorrectly taken photograph. In his dealings with officialdom he could battle beyond the point of advantage if his principles, as he saw them, were in danger of being compromised. As a museum curator he could never understand that institutional demands might sometimes take precedence over departmental interests. In his time in Brooklyn, in spite of many confrontations, he successfully preserved his department, its valuable Wilbour Library and research facilities, instituted a number of notable exhibitions, inaugurated an important series of scholarly monographs, and added many outstanding acquisitions to a distinguished collection.

Not the least of his museological achievements was the organising of the Luxor Museum which opened in 1975. Working in collaboration with the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation, he insisted on standards of presentation, and particularly of lighting, rarely seen outside the most advanced galleries of the West.

A man of wide culture, Bernard Bothmer enjoyed most of the good things of life, was an excellent host, and a refreshing addition to any company. But he had much unhappiness in his life, which he mostly suppressed in stoic manner.

Although he suffered poor health for many years, he never allowed his condition to interfere with his teaching, and he never complained. In his last months, the cancer which in the end subdued him, was fought with extraordinary fortitude; he even gave his last classes in a wheelchair when he could no longer walk. In all his physical tribulations he was sustained by his devoted second wife Norma Jean, who survives him along with a daughter of his first marriage.

JOHN PYM

John Pym, architect, died on November 22 in Brasted, Kent, aged 85. He was born in Cheveley, Cambridgeshire, on May 12, 1908.



JOHN PYM grew up in Kent and designed or adapted, over many years, a number of houses in the county, all of which were marked by a blend of modesty, elegance and practicality — a reflection of their builders' character. Outside his family and small circle of friends, it is, however, chiefly as a planning adviser in the Home Counties, particularly Surrey, during the 1950s and 1960s, that Jack Pym is likely to be remembered.

Jack Pym's father, Major Sir Charles Pym, was an indefatigable public servant and one-time chairman of Kent County Council. He was also a man of captivating charm, vitality and humour. His mother, the former Violet Lubbock, who died when Jack was 18, came from a family of writers, scientists and bankers. The Pym family, it was said, kept talking at all costs; the Lubbocks only when they had something to say. Jack Pym inherited from his father a love of Kent, and a dry, twinkling sense of the ridiculous, and from his mother his tall good looks and a certain, highly distinctive seriousness. Pym was educated at Eton, where he won the mile and the school drawing prize (for a study of the head of an old man), and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where in 1930 he took a first-class degree in architecture. He subsequently became an associate and fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He served a term as master of the Tyers and Bricklayers' Company. In the spring and summer of 1939, he joined the ranks of

the 2nd London Division of the Royal Engineers (as a driver); he was later commissioned into the same formation, and in 1941 was sent overseas, first to Iraq and then to India. He drove a Norton motorcycle across India, west to east, and, by his own unembellished account, spent much of the latter part of the war "building bridges in the jungles of Burma". He was mentioned in dispatches and left the Army as a lieutenant-colonel.

In 1946 Pym joined the London firm of W. R. Davidge and Partners. Before the war he had worked as a private architect, but his association with Davidge — one of the 20 signatories of a circular letter in November 1913 which resulted in the foundation of the Town Planning Institute — led to a broadening of his practice to embrace the additional land-use and development-control skills of town planning.

At that time, as a result of Abercrombie's Greater London Plan (1944), the councils around London were

struggling with a shortage of skilled staff to apply the conclusions and recommendations of the plan to their individual areas. Many councils asked W. R. Davidge and Partners for advice, and Pym was placed in charge of the plan-making and development-control functions of a large part of metropolitan Surrey. "His calm and laid-back approach," one colleague recalled, "took the sting out of many a town meeting or discussion, and he was immensely popular with councillors, their officers and intending developers."

His chief architectural work after the war was the prolonged planning and execution of the "Town Map" of Catterick Camp, Yorkshire. This defined all the usual land uses — residential, shopping, playing areas, and in this case military requirements. He went on to design and build two new camps for armoured units, and also to refurbish and rebuild other camps in the garrison town. Davidge and Partners lost the Catterick contract in the 1970s, thanks to the persuasive blandishments of a rival architect named John Poulson.

After his father's death in 1971, Pym returned to Foxwood, the family estate in West Kent. His latter years were spent methodically replanting the estate's 70 acres of broadleaf woodland destroyed by the hurricane of 1987. The task was completed to his satisfaction shortly before his death.

Jack Pym married Diana Gough, his Cambridge contemporary, in December 1930. Diana Pym, for 26 years secretary of the League for Democracy in Greece, predeceased him by two months. He is survived by two daughters and a son.

SIR JOHN INCH

Sir John Inch, CVO, CBE, Chief Constable of Edinburgh City Police Force, 1955-75, died in Edinburgh on November 22 aged 82. He was born in Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire, on May 14, 1911.

In 1936, being made inspector two years later.

In 1943 Inch was appointed Chief Constable of Dumfries and Galloway City Police. He set about reorganising and modernising the force, introducing the part-mechanisation of beats, an efficient CID and a new photographic department. With the amalgamation of the Dumfries, Kirkcaldy and Fifeshire forces in 1949, he was faced with the problem of unifying the working method of three different forces. On this he relied as ever on common sense and a non-theoretical approach. He still considered the beat policeman

running of the force. He sat on innumerable committees, presided over royal and state visits, modernised local beats by introducing panda cars and, during his last years there, was a guiding hand in the amalgamation of the three local forces into the new Lothian and Borders police force. He also introduced an operations room, formed a local crime squad, fraud squad and murder squad within the framework of the CID, and started the system of graduate entry and an accelerated promotion scheme for high-flyers (though he insisted that graduates should start with a solid grounding on the beat).



Inch had a no-nonsense, slightly domineering manner and expected high standards from his team. Blessed with a photographic memory himself (he enjoyed reciting large chunks of Burns), colleagues knew they had to do their homework before discussing a problem with him, as his own recall of any aspect of the force's business tended to be foolproof. After work he and his wife would attend up to three official functions a night.

Inch was appointed CBE in 1958, CVO in 1969 and knighted in 1972. He retired in 1975 and, though he still enjoyed his engagements as an after-dinner speaker, he mellowed in later years and found fulfilment in his six grandchildren and a well-run kitchen garden.

A tall and physically impressive man, he was also a good shot, fisherman and golfer and was chairman and later president of the Police Athletic Association. His timely intervention in the committee charged with organising the "friendly" Commonwealth Games, held in Edinburgh in 1970, helped to make them the sporting success they turned out to be.

Sir John Inch is survived by his wife Ann, whom he married in 1941, one son and two daughters.

MAJOR-GENERAL AJIT RUDRA

Major-General Ajit Anil ("Jick") Rudra, retired Indian Army officer, died in West End, Delhi, on November 3 aged 97. He was born on October 20, 1896.

THE career of Major-General "Jick" Rudra was one of the most colourful and momentous of any Indian officer of the old Indian Army. He served in both world wars and had the distinction of having served in three armies: the British Army, His Majesty's Indian Land Forces; and in the Army of independent India.

Rudra was born into an eminent Brahmin family of Bengal which, at the time of the reformation movement of Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Debendra Nath Tagore, first leaned toward the reformist

Brahmo Samaj and then, still not convinced that the Samaj represented a total break away from the "crudities" of Hinduism as practised widely in Bengal 150 years ago, converted to Christianity.

Jick's father Sushil Rudra went to north India as a missionary teacher and eventually became the first Indian principal of St Stephen's College, Delhi, from which position he was able to send his vice-principal, the Rev C. F. Andrews, to South Africa to bring a young social activist named Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to Delhi. Gandhi stayed nine years in the Rudra household, an association that had a marked influence on the character and attitudes of young Rudra when he grew into manhood. Jick Rudra went to Cam-

bridge in 1915 but after a few months decided, together with many British colleagues, to enlist in the ranks of the University and Public Schools Brigade to go to fight in France, which he did for three years, being twice wounded. After joining an officer-training battalion in England, Jick Rudra was sent to India to be commissioned with the first batch of Indian officer cadets at Duly College, Indore.

Rudra joined his "Puffer" (late Punjab Frontier Force) Regiment, the 28th Punjab, in Palestine, subsequently serving with his regiment in the Third Afghan War, in which, at the battle of Shahr-i-Tangi, a citation he initiated as a second-lieutenant, won for his Sepoy machine-gunner, Ishar Singh, the Victoria Cross, the first of three won

under Rudra's command before India became independent.

Rudra's career in the Indian Army was exceptional in another respect. He was the only officer from among 500 or so pre-war commissioned Indians who remained with his British officered infantry regiment when all other Indian officers were compulsorily transferred to eight selected "Indianised battalions" — an attempt at racial segregation that was abandoned only after the outbreak of war in 1939. Rudra was "forcibly" prevented from going; when his posting order was received, his Father-in-Law, Major-General, threatened to turn out the men of the regiment and "surround Rudra Sahib" rather than let him leave the regiment. Rudra remained, though his posting

order was never cancelled.

When Rudra went on active service, as second-in-command of a battalion on the Burma front, Army HQ entrusted to him the crucial task of restoring the morale of the battalion in which a whole company of troops had fallen for Japanese propaganda and deserted en bloc to the enemy. So well did Rudra fulfil this responsibility that he was promptly pulled in by Army HQ and appointed an adviser on the activities of the Japanese-inspired Indian National Army. He was the first senior Indian to be appointed to the General Staff. Eventually he achieved the ranks of colonel and brigadier — and an OBE — but, sadly, lost the opportunity of returning to his regiment for war service.

Perhaps as a result of the influence of his youthful association with Gandhi, Jick Rudra gradually began to understand, if not sympathise with, the compulsions that had led the recruits to the Indian National Army to take up arms against their colonial rulers. It was he who eventually persuaded Bhulabhai Desai, a senior Congress leader, to represent a trio of INA officers at his trial, long before Pandit Nehru and others came to the fray.

Jick Rudra retired from the service, with the rank of major-general, in 1951. One of his last remarks to a very caring grandson was: "Bad show — I didn't make my century."

Sir Jack Longland (Obituary, December 2) is survived by two daughters as well as his younger son.

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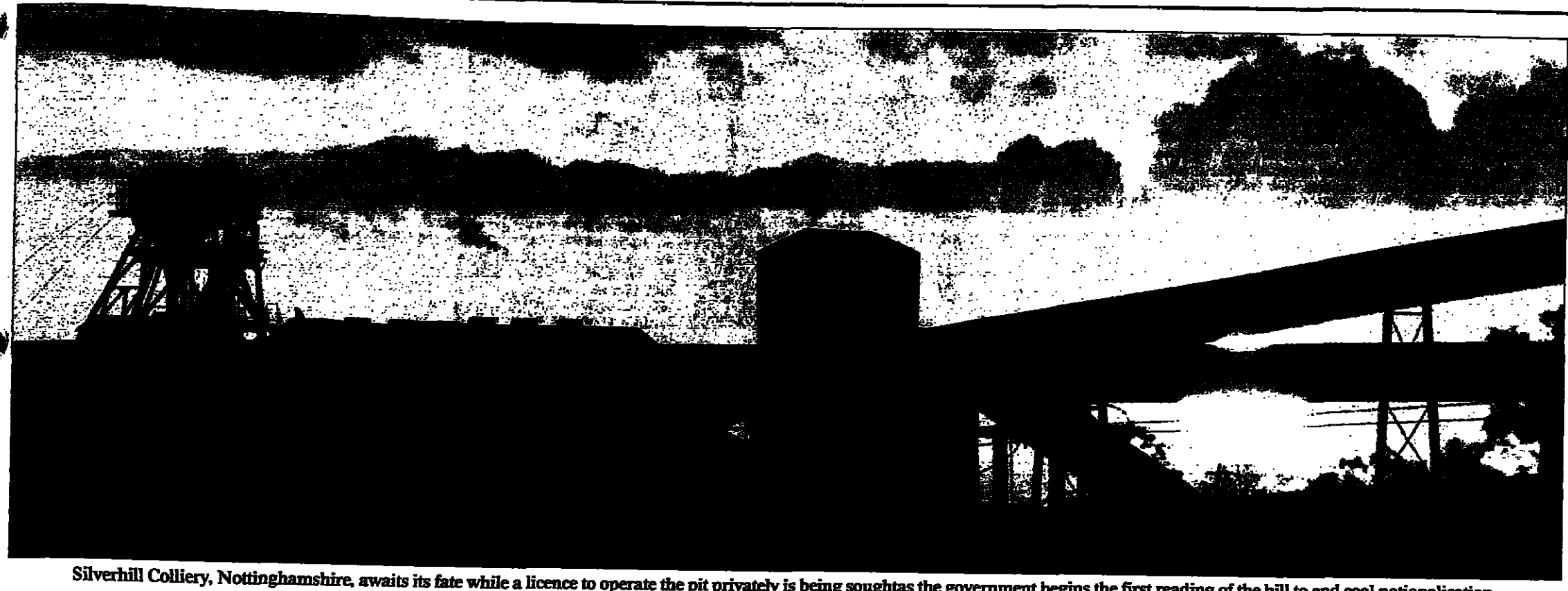
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THE TIMES

FRIDAY DECEMBER 3 1993



Silverhill Colliery, Nottinghamshire, awaits its fate while a licence to operate the pit privately is being sought as the government begins the first reading of the bill to end coal nationalisation

Ferranti receivers demand price rises

By ROSS TITMAN AND SUSAN GILCHRIST

ADMINISTRATIVE receivers to the collapsed Ferranti International electronics business are warning that they will halt work on-loss making contracts unless customers agree to pay more.

Any failure by John Talbot and Murdoch McKillop, the joint receivers from Arthur Andersen, to renegotiate the contracts, involving industrial customers for sophisticated control equipment, is expected to lead to a spate of redundancies.

Plans to declare large-scale redundancies had been drawn up by Ferranti management before receivers were appointed on Thursday, after a takeover offer from GEC was withdrawn. Several hundred redundancies are now expected among the 3,600 workforce before Christmas.

Last night, the receivers said that it was already "clear that some redundancies will be inevitable". However, Mr McKillop said he was "reasonably hopeful" that a considerable proportion of the business could be saved. "It is a very complicated business but there are some good people here and there are good products," he said.

However, it was already clear that Ferranti was too

small in both defence and industrial markets to survive alone, and the activities needed to be part of a larger group or groups.

Trade union suggestions that Thomson CSF, the state-owned electronics group, had been willing to bid for Ferranti were dismissed by a Thomson spokesman. However, it is understood that Thomson has a pre-emption right to buy out Ferranti's share of their joint venture, Ferranti-Thomson Sonar Systems UK, in the present circumstances. Ferranti-Thomson is not in receivership, and the receivers are expected to negotiate the sale of their stake in the business at an early stage.

Trading at all of Ferranti's businesses is expected to continue while the receivers seek new arrangements with customers and suppliers alike.

Larry Brooke, national officer for MSF, the technical union, said: "With so many jobs at risk... we cannot afford to turn our backs on any serious bid." Mr Brooke has written to John Major and Michael Heseltine, President

of the Board of Trade, asking them to look into suggestions that Thomson was blocked from bidding by the government.

Up to 3,600 jobs are at risk at 18 sites across the country after GEC's sudden withdrawal of its takeover bid. The unions are eager to avoid the spate of redundancies that followed Leyland DAF's receivership, also administered by Mr Talbot and Mr McKillop.

Mr Brooke said it was imperative that the teams of skilled engineers within Ferranti are not dismantled. He remained hopeful that many of Ferranti's businesses could be sold thereby saving the majority of jobs. "Over the last three years Ferranti has cut back dramatically and is now in very lean shape." The workforce has been reduced by almost 20,000 and £50 million of assets have been sold since the discovery of the \$1 billion corporate fraud at its International Signal & Control subsidiary in 1989.

At Leyland DAF, the biggest industrial receivership since Rolls-Royce 20 years ago, Mr

Surprise prosecution meeting over VW

By COLIN NARBROUGH

A US Justice Department official will hold a first round of talks today with the German public prosecutor investigating allegations of industrial espionage against Jose, Ignacio Lopez de Arriortua, Volkswagen's controversial purchasing and production chief.

America's General Motors and Opel, its German subsidiary, allege that Señor Lopez took large quantities of confidential documents with him when he moved to VW from GM with seven colleagues.

A spokesman for the public prosecutor's office in Darmstadt, southern Germany, said last night that the US justice official would meet Dorothea Holland, the prosecutor leading the German enquiry, this morning, possibly in the presence of police officers.

He said the meeting between US and German justice officers was "highly unusual" and that he could not recall a similar meeting. The authorities on both sides of the Atlantic are understood to have tried to co-ordinate their separate investigations in recent weeks.

The Darmstadt discussions follow the release by VW of a short version of an external auditors' report on the allegations. GM said the report was a whitewash.

Sun setting on the national coal board

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Coal and the government are in conflict over the industry's pension funds under proposals to privatise coal announced yesterday.

As the Commons gave the first, formal reading to the bill, which, when passed, will mean the end of the nationalised coal industry, the corporation made clear its concern about the powers over pensions which the bill withholds for Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade.

Though the argument over pensions revolves around technical issues, the pension problem is likely to become the focal point of the first political row over coal privatisation in the wake of the difficulties over pensions in the government's plans to privatise British Rail.

Neil Clarke, BC chairman, said last night, as the bill was published, he was "concerned about the extent of the powers intended to be reserved to the secretary of state." Important

BUSINESS EDITOR Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

LESS CASH



GrandMet suffered a big fall in profits because of restructuring and a dispute over William Hill
Page 27, Tempos 29

MORE MONEY

Sewer Trent cost cuts have helped overcome a fall in demand to raise profits by 12 per cent in the first half
Page 28, Tempos 29

NO FUNDS



No cash or private sector backing has been lined up for the three building projects unveiled in the Budget
Pennington, page 27

NO MORE CASH

Hanson, the Anglo-American conglomerate, has not raised dividends for the first time ever
Page 26

\$41bn Volvo-Renault merger called off



Pehr Gyllenhammar stands aside

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

VOLVO, the Swedish car and truck maker, last night succumbed to shareholder power and abandoned its plan to seek approval for the planned merger with Renault, the French automotive group, at an extraordinary meeting next Tuesday.

Pehr Gyllenhammar, the long-standing Volvo chairman and chief architect of the strategic merger plan, and four directors, announced their immediate resignations as news came that the merger was being set aside.

The dramatic turn in the Renault-Volvo saga comes less than two weeks after the collapse of the Alcazar project, an ambitious plan to merge four medium-sized airlines, fathered by Jan Carlzon, the Swedish ex-president of

Scandinavian Airlines System. A Volvo statement said the board gave "unanimous support" to the merger as the "best way, long-term" to secure Volvo's future, but recommended that the deal should not go through now, as it was very unlikely that it would gain majority backing from shareholders.

Renault, which was intended to hold 65 per cent of the proposed joint company, against Volvo's 35 per cent, strongly attacked the Swedish decision, describing the move as a "withdrawal" from an agreed merger pact.

Mr Gyllenhammar, who had headed Volvo since 1971, predicted that even the alliance with Renault was probably doomed. He said Renault had justifiably lost confidence in Volvo manage-

ment, who have "turned their backs" on Europe. Sören Gyll, the Volvo managing director, said if the merger plan was dead, rather than in abeyance, Volvo was likely to be forced to raise capital urgently.

The four board members who quit with Mr Gyllenhammar are the Renault honorary chairman, Raymond Lévy, Dame Lydia Dunn, the Hong Kong legislator, Poul Svaneholm, chief executive of Carlsberg, the Danish brewing group, and Ulf Linden, a Swede.

The merger, supposed to have taken effect from January 1, would have created the seventh-biggest industrial company in Europe, with an annual turnover of about \$41 billion.



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No cash or private sector backing has been lined up for the three building projects unveiled in the Budget
Pennington, page 27

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Hanson fails for first time to raise dividend

By Neil Bennett

HANSON, the Anglo-American conglomerate, has failed to increase its dividend for the first time in its history after a sharp fall in profits because of a slump and a strike in its coal mining business in America.

Derek Bonham, the chief executive, said the group was pegging its dividend at 2.85p a quarter due to the low earnings. The group's pre-tax profits fell 21 per cent to £1.02 billion in the year to September 30, the low end of City forecasts.

Hanson also announced that its debts at the end of the year had increased to £3.4 billion, a rise of £2.6 billion, mainly as a result of the acquisition of Quantum Chemical in the United States.

In an effort to cut borrowings, the group said that it will float its housebuilding businesses in Britain and America early in the new year. The group says it will float all of Beazer Homes in Britain —

the country's fourth-largest housebuilder — which should raise £400 million, and 70 per cent of Beazer Homes, which the City values at about £100 million. Hanson's housebuilding division made a £58 million profit last year, up from £48 million.

The flotation will help to lessen a £275 million rise in interest charges that the group is expecting to suffer next year and follow two trade disposals the group made last week which together raised more than £130 million. The group plans to make further disposals of its smaller businesses, particularly in America, to cut debts and prepare the way for more acquisitions.

Hanson's worst performing business during the year was Peabody's American coal mining, where a prolonged industrial strike cost the group £125 million, and cut profits by \$1 million a day. David Clarke, the chief executive of Hanson

in America said that there were signs that a settlement to the strike were now close. Profits from coal fell 55 per cent to £70 million.

The problems in coal were contrasted by a strong year in Cavenham Forest Industries, the timber group, where profits rose 53 per cent to £106 million.

The other star performer was Imperial Tobacco, where profits rose by 10 per cent to £307 million. Mr Bonham said however that the 11p increase in cigarette duty in Tuesday's Budget would hit Imperial's volumes.

Lord Hanson, the chairman, said: "A positive recovery is now evident in most of our major markets and we believe trading profit will continue to improve in 1994. Against that increases in net interest will be a significant factor."

Tempos, page 29



Alan Jackson sees benefits from combined skills

BTR buys Rexnord for \$820m

By Martin Waller
Deputy City Editor

BTR has announced a long-awaited big acquisition with the \$820 million purchase, including \$400 million of assumed debt, of Rexnord Corporation, an American maker of industrial components.

Rexnord's shares are quoted on the New York Stock Exchange, but BTR already has irrevocable acceptances from more than 50 per cent of the shareholders, including the near-half of the company held by Fairchild of the US.

BTR is paying \$420 million in cash for Rexnord, based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which has assets before borrowings of \$504 million, as well as taking on the debt.

The company makes industrial and aerospace seals, power transmission parts and other components. Sales in the last financial year were \$532 million and operating profits \$82.7 million, but interest payments cut profits before one-off items to \$23.9 million. Alan Jackson, BTR's chief executive, said the combined skills of the two companies would benefit the business.

Tempos, page 29

Ladbroke seeks chief for Hilton Hotels

LADBROKE is seeking a new chief executive for its Hilton Hotels group to replace Michael Hirst, but the company said the decision to replace him is unconnected with his share sale last week. It is not yet clear if Mr Hirst, who has a three-year contract and was paid between £250,000 and £300,000 last year, will leave the company. The company said it had decided to replace him and the search for a successor was well advanced. In a statement, it added: "Amicable discussions with Michael Hirst concerning his future role in the company are currently taking place."

Ladbroke said Mr Hirst, 49, has informed the company that his decision to sell part of his shareholding in the group was totally unconnected with the discussions about his future role and based solely on his personal financial planning. Ladbroke said steps are being taken by Peter George, who takes over as chief executive next month, to strengthen the senior management of the group so that the company is well positioned to take full advantage of anticipated improvements in the world economy. The first step in this process was the appointment of John Coleman as chief executive of Texas Homecare, replacing Ron Trenter who became chairman of Texas Homecare.

MEPC pegs dividend

SHARES in MEPC, Britain's second-largest property company, slipped 27p to 523p after disappointment over its annual property revaluation which caused net asset value per share to shrink from 445p to 416p. Pre-tax profits for the year to September 30 fell from £95 million to £81 million. Before exceptional items, profits fell 14 per cent to £94 million. MEPC is maintaining the dividend at 20p after earnings per share of 18.9p (23.5p). Tempos, page 29

US income rises 0.6%

PERSONAL income in America in October rose a strong 0.6 per cent and it was freely spent, mainly on expensive goods, the US government said yesterday. The third successive monthly rise in personal income brought it to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$5,470 billion. In a separate report, the Labor Department said the number of Americans filing unemployment claims unexpectedly fell 17,000 last week to 321,000, the lowest level in two months.

Ford losing in Europe

ALEXANDER Trotman, the British-born head of Ford, pictured right, gave a warning that the car company's European operations will lose money this year and in 1994. But American operations were poised for a substantial improvement next year, he said in a private briefing. Mr Trotman, who has just completed his first month as chairman, president and chief executive of America's second-largest car manufacturer, said US sales will be up a million at 14.1 million this year and should exceed 15 million in 1994.



SIB appointment

ANDREW Winckler, deputy chairman of both European Capital and the Securities and Futures Authority, is to become the third executive member of the Securities and Investments Board from March. He will be in charge of the board's supervision division. The appointment follows a recommendation by Andrew Large, the SIB chairman, that the number of executive directors on its board should be increased.

Tinsley Robor in profit

TINSLEY Robor, the printing and packaging company, has returned to the black at the halfway stage, but difficult trading means no restoration of the interim dividend. In the six months to September 30, the group made pre-tax profits of £12,000 (£12,000 loss). Losses per share fell to 0.2p (0.4p). Tinsley said it incurred start-up costs of £206,000 for a new music industry printing plant at Uden, in The Netherlands, which is expected to contribute in the second half.

Leeds Group advances

INCREASED prices made a minimal contribution to a 30 per cent jump in full-year taxable profits to £7.2 million at Leeds Group, the textile dyer and printer. The lion's share of the increase in the 12 months to September 30 was due to improvements in volume and operational efficiencies. Earnings per share leapt 22 per cent to 26.9p, and a final dividend of 5.75p makes a total of 8.5p, up 16 per cent. Sustained recovery in the UK market remained elusive.

Lenders upbeat on housing recovery

By Sara McConnell, Personal Finance Correspondent

AN INCREASE in the number of mortgages approved by banks, building societies and centralised lenders to 89,000 in October was hailed by lenders as a sign that the housing market recovery may be starting to gather pace.

In the second month that mortgage lenders' figures from all sources have been issued by the Bank of England, levels of gross and net mortgage advances were stronger than in any month except September when 88,000 loans were approved. Total gross lending was £4.7 billion.

Total net lending for house purchase in October was £1.9 billion, compared with £2 billion in September and an average of £1.2 billion in the previous five months.

However, the pattern of house prices across Britain is still confused. The Halifax said that prices had risen 0.2 per cent in November, after a fall in October, but the Nationwide identified a fall of 1.5 per cent in November after a rise in October.

Adrian Coles, director-general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said of the housing market that although the effects of recession were by

no means fully over, the uncertainty engendered by pre-Budget speculation had now passed and there was every reason to suppose that the stronger level of mortgage approvals might feed through to advances.

The CML said that the estimated 1 million homeowners wanting to move would have been given some confidence by the Chancellor's announcement on Tuesday that mortgage interest relief at source (Miras) would be restricted over time rather than abolished. However, fear of unemployment was still holding people back.

The Halifax expects house prices to rise over the whole of 1993 by about 2 per cent, the first time they will have shown an overall rise since 1990.

It said the average price of a new house in November was £58,063 while the standardised average price of all houses was £52,803. First-time buyers paid an average of £45,665, a slight fall of 0.6 per cent in November.

The Nationwide said prices in November were 2.3 per cent higher than in the same period of 1992, reflecting the modest recovery in the spring.

Scaling new heights: Nuclear Electric announces operating profit up 95%.

Nuclear Electric's six months to 30th September 1993.

Energy production up 20% to 29.2TWh.

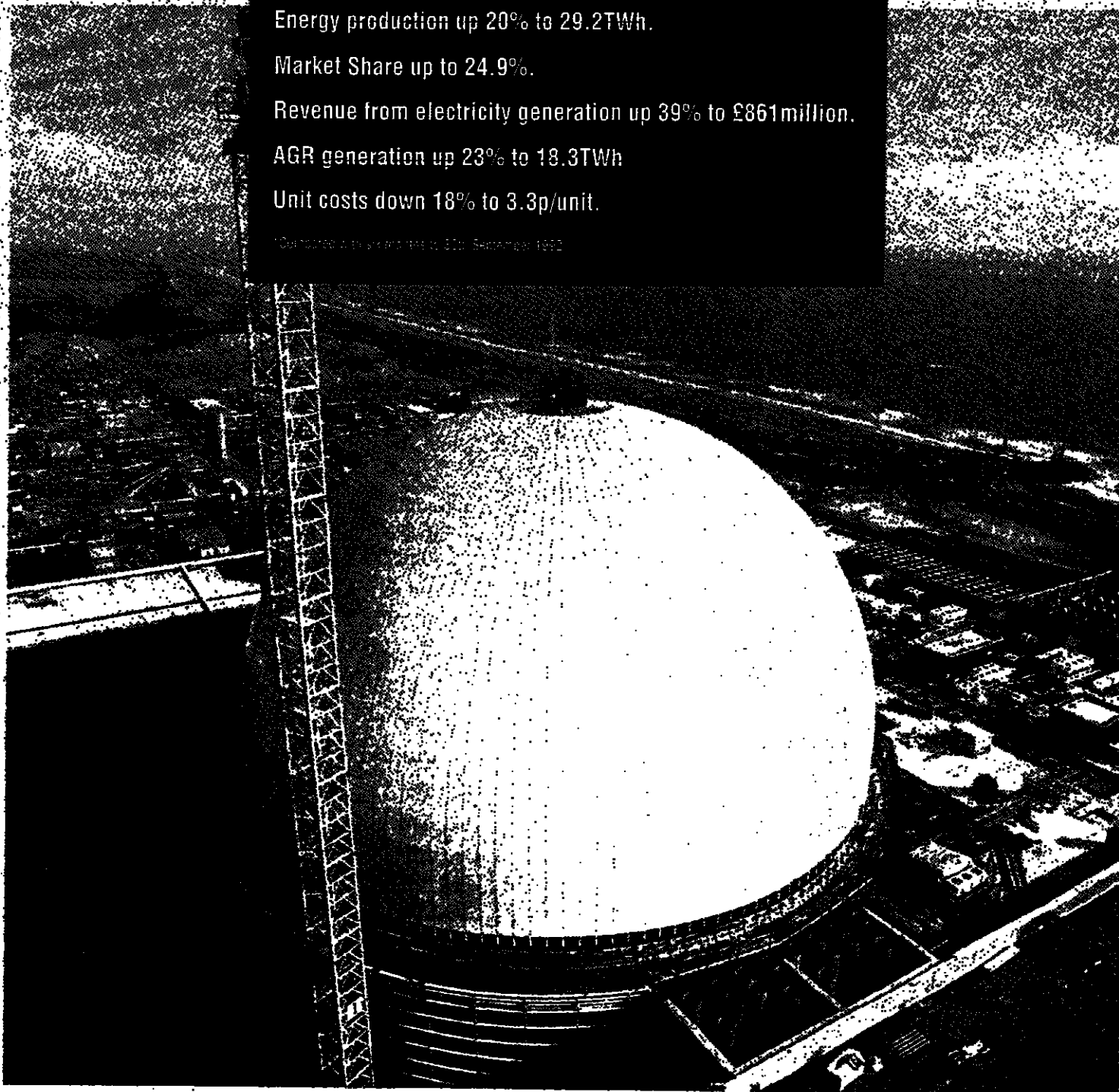
Market Share up to 24.9%.

Revenue from electricity generation up 39% to £861million.

AGR generation up 23% to 18.3TWh

Unit costs down 18% to 3.3p/unit.

*(Grossed to 10 years and 10p September 1992)



Major increases in revenues and significantly lower costs, coupled with an all-time record output from our Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGRs), combined to create another outstanding performance with turnover up 18% to £1476 million.

Operating profit was up to £497 million, an increase of 95% compared to the same period last year.

In 1995 we expect to achieve an operating profit before taking account of Levy income.

With the operation of Sizewell B set to begin in the summer, and our applications for Sizewell C and for a Second Tier Licence, the company enters 1994 with great confidence.



CLEAR ENERGY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

□ No cash to hand for Budget vision □ Shopping around on Sunday opening □ Not another world trade deadline...

Words, not action this day

WE should have learnt by now, when the government announces the go-ahead for a major infrastructure project, it does not actually mean that the shovels and diggers are poised for action. The promise of a Jubilee Line extension tended to pop up in the old Autumn Statements like a bright new penny whenever the government had something nasty to mete out to voters in other areas of public spending. The Jubilee line project is now going ahead for real but for many months the government was able to store up good news brownie points without actually spending any money.

No doubt the same will happen with the three projects triumphantly announced during the Chancellor's Budget speech, rather disingenuously presented as the first concrete and imminent successes of what is still, a year after it was launched, only an embryonic private finance initiative. The West Coast Main Line project seems furthest ahead with a general framework for risk sharing in place. It is certainly being regarded as the blueprint for contracts between government and private sector in this new market for infrastructure projects.

Stephen Dorrell of the Treasury acknowledges that the government has given potential partners a demanding shopping

list of requirements, prompting some to complain that the government wants perfection. Mr Dorrell makes no apologies for seeking the best deal but, given that the private sector remains deeply sceptical about the whole initiative, perhaps he is being over-optimistic. Impatient with the lack of response, the financial secretary seems prepared to be pragmatic, to change the rules if the private sector will not play. But at this stage of the game, Whitehall is still furiously lobbying the private sector to accept that the basic philosophy is workable. After the intellectual argument is won, radical changes must be pushed through from the public sector side to create the most basic conditions needed to lure companies into the new market.

One example is Cabinet acceptance of the principle of pricing existing roads, partly to persuade potential private road operators that they are not going to face unfair competition from the public sector. The timescale for all this is very long term. The first priced motorway is not expected for at least five years

and it is questionable whether the private sector can enter the fray until both the principle and the technology of road pricing are established.

The initiative will not work until the private sector can be persuaded that it will make money by being involved. The government has begun laying out its strategy for a society in which the public sector can no longer afford to be the main payer and risk taker but has to provide proper incentives. If it succeeds, a blueprint will have been drawn for other high-deficit European countries. Then there might be money to be made.

Supporting the small shopkeeper

NEXT WEDNESDAY, so the theory goes, should herald an end to the current turmoil over Sunday trading.

There is no dispute as to the anomalies of the fifth schedule of the Shops Act 1950. As the law stands, retailers are permitted to sell fresh milk on the Sabbath but not dried milk. The sale of



Easter eggs is legal, the sale of fresh eggs, illegal. Magazines are 'in'; a dictionary is 'out'.

Since 1950, there have been more than 20 attempts to change the law, one of the most notable, under the Thatcher administration, being the Shops Bill 1985 which proposed total deregulation and was defeated by 14 votes in the Spring of 1986, courtesy of a backbench rebellion.

Monday saw the second reading of the Sunday Trading Bill which has paved the way for Wednesday's free vote on three options. The government's proposal is (surprise, surprise) for total deregulation: the Hiroshima approach which, according to a London Economics survey, will lead to the wide-

spread closure of small shops with eventual job losses estimated at close on 20,000.

The Shopping Hours Reform Council (SHRC) favours partial deregulation. Small shops would be permitted to open throughout Sunday, but outlets larger than 3,000 square feet would be limited to six hours trading. Supermarket chains such as Sainsbury and Tesco favour this option, as do Boots and Dixons.

Small high street retailers (who have the most to lose from deregulation) argue that SHRC's proposal will inevitably give way to total deregulation. They have thrown their lot behind the "limited opening" proposals put forward by Retailers for Shops Act Reform (RSAR), led by Marks and Spencer which, in keeping with its St Michael image, has steadfastly refused to break the law.

On the eve of the Queen's speech, the Keep Sunday Special Campaign, which adopted the most restrictive stand, chose to join forces with RSAR, which now represents retailers with a combined turnover of more than £26 billion, including the John

Lewis Partnership, Sears, Littlewoods, C&A, Burton Group and Kwik Save.

Key RSAR proposals include: □ No restrictions on Sunday opening for small convenience and leisure shops.

□ Garden centres and DIYs allowed to open.

□ All shops allowed to open on the four Sundays before Christmas.

The irony is that should the government or SHRC win, M&S, on a level playing field, will prove a prime beneficiary: as argued in a compelling circular entitled *Sunday Trading - Fact or Fantasy* from Hoare Govett.

And finally, let's get Gatt over with too

AFTER THE Budget — it's back to that even longer-running cliffhanger, the Uruguay trade round. By now, the world's weary trade diplomats are desperate to avoid failing to reach a deal by December 13-15. Momentum is therefore gathering. American and EC negotiators emerged optimistic from

yesterday's "crucial" bilateral talks about Monday's even more crucial talks on the timing of cuts in cereal export subsidies and protection from Hollywood cultural domination. Gatt's secretary presumes success: it has hired a big hall in Geneva for everyone to start the endgame on Thursday and Friday.

The hope remains that if the EC and America solve their disputes, everyone else will be blackmailed into conceding. Many more areas of the unwieldy package are, however, being held up, including textiles, steel, bananas and financial services. Many involve America.

Should a deal finally be signed, the world's public will soon wonder what the fuss was all about. In a critical area such as textiles, for instance, trade will not even be brought fully within Gatt rules until 2005, when there will still be hefty tariffs and special safeguards. Huge farm export subsidies, restraints and distortions will stay indefinitely.

What matters most in the Uruguay round is to set up an executive Multilateral Trade Organisation, tighten dispute procedures and gradually bring all the main trade sectors into Gatt rules. But even these reforms might not prove anything like as strong in practice as first proposed — and they, too, are not yet finally agreed.

GrandMet allows £86m for William Hill costs

■ The pre-tax profits received a £73 million boost from currency movements. However, exceptional items of £286 million, more than outweighed this good fortune

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

GRAND Metropolitan, the drinks and food group, has set aside £86 million to pay for all costs incurred in the long-running legal dispute with Brent Walker over the latter's 1989 purchase of the William Hill betting business, including the £66 million GrandMet claims in deferred payment.

The item is taken as an exceptional provision in GrandMet's full-year figures to September 30. Sir Allen Sheppard, chairman, said the group had not given up on an eventual settlement but for now the sum, including £20 million in legal and other professional costs, was being treated as a doubtful debt.

William Hill's future is being considered by Brent Walker and its banks, one option being a flotation in the new year. But Sir Allen added: "We consider the chances of them being able to pay us in the near future are doubtful."

GrandMet's final figures were marred by exceptional items even higher than had been indicated at the time of a trading statement in September, when the group said there would be a £175 million restructuring provision, but they had strong assistance from the weakening of the pound since the previous year.

At the pre-tax level, after £286 million of exceptional items, the group reported pre-tax profits of £630 million, against £913 million last time, even though operating profits went ahead 18.6 per cent to £958 million. Pre-tax profits received a £73 million boost from currency movements; the benefit at the operating level was £114 million.

GrandMet is paying a final dividend of 8.35p, making 13.0p against 12.3p. An upbeat presentation at the meeting with analysts, the first such from George Bull as chief executive, was sufficient to lift the shares 15p to 432p.

Sir Allen said the economic conditions in which the group's businesses had operated during 1993 had continued to be challenging. The economic recoveries in the US and UK did not produce significant benefits, while many continental European economies remained in recession.

The exceptional items included the expected restructuring costs and the provisions taken in relation to the twin William Hill legal actions, one to require payment to GrandMet of the deferred consideration and the other by Brent Walker alleging it had overpaid for the business. In addition GrandMet has written down the value of property in Britain, primarily a former brewery site in East London, by £50 million, offset by property and other disposals.

As the operating level, earnings from north American food businesses, including Pillsbury and Green Giant, rose by 29 per cent to £212 million, although without currency benefits it would have been 9 per cent. In Europe, operating profits from food fell by £7 million to £22 million.

The IDV drinks business lifted operating profits 14 per cent to £561 million, or 4 per cent excluding the effect of foreign exchange movements. In retailing, Burger King managed a 29 per cent rise to £170 million, or 8 per cent in local currency rates.

The Intrepreneur Estates joint venture with Courage contributed a loss of £9 million, a £5 million improvement, and is on course to break even in the current year. Falling property values have required both shareholders to pump in a further £85 million between them since GrandMet's financial year end, bringing the latter's total cash contribution to £117 million.

Nuclear sell-off closer as profit figures shine

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

NUCLEAR Electric, operator of the nuclear power stations in England and Wales, could be fully profitable in the next financial year and ready for privatisation in 1995, Bob Hawley, the chief executive, has said.

He was speaking at a presentation of the company's interim figures, which showed further progress towards the target of making an operating profit without help from the nuclear levy borne by the rest of the electricity industry.

In the six months to end-September, Nuclear made operating profits of £497 million,

almost doubled from £255 million after it received a nuclear premium that was £17 million lower at £615 million. Mr Hawley has previously indicated that the group should be profitable without that premium by 1995-96, but he now believes this could be achieved a year ahead of target. This could place the company on the privatisation slipway in 1995-96.

Nuclear saw its share of the electricity market in the first half grow to just short of 25 per cent, from 21.4 per cent, and Mr Hawley said he hoped to keep this market share.

Recriminations as Racial reveals loss

By COLIN CAMPBELL

SHARES of Racial Electronics dropped 29p to 160p yesterday after the group reported a pre-tax loss of £388,000 for the six months to October 8.

This compares with a previous interim pre-tax profit of £23.2 million. Racial is maintaining the interim dividend at 1.5p a share and said the loss was purely because of the recognition, under new accounting standards, of £25.1 million of losses from discontinued operations.

Sir Ernest Harrison, the chairman, was stunned by City claims that Racial had misled the market when the

sale of the loss-makers was announced in October. He said: "We misled nobody. The goodwill impact on the profit and loss and the balance sheet is nil. With hindsight, perhaps I should have explained the implications of the October sale announcement more fully."

Operating profits from continuing operations in the six month period were £23.1 million against £23.9 million, and include a £3.95 million (£7.7 million) charge for redundancy and reorganisation.

Tempus, page 29



Sir Allen Sheppard, left, and George Bull yesterday

Reward follows huge jump in earnings

Royal Bank pays 5.1% bonus to staff

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Bank of Scotland is to give its staff a 5.1 per cent bonus as part of a £13.1 million profit share scheme after a 2.105 per cent profits recovery to £265.2 million in the year to September 30.

The payment will be in the January pay of 22,000 eligible staff in UK banking and Direct Line, the telephone insurance subsidiary. They are paid an average of between £15,000 and £20,000 and the profit share cash comes on top of a 2.5 per cent Christmas bonus already paid.

George Mathewson, the chief executive, said the bank proposes to achieve its grand ambition of being the best-performing financial services group by 1997 by "continuing our strategy of reducing the volatility of earnings". He said the emphasis would be on mortgage lending, Direct Line, the US business Citizens Financial, and on improving the quality of the bank's loan book.

Pre-tax profits were up from £12.6 million to £265.2 million for the year to end-September. The recovery was aided

by a large fall in bad debt provisions, down £102.7 million to £293 million, and increased profits from fee-earning businesses. The bank said that the big improvement in bad debts came in the second half of the year when provisions fell by 40 per cent. Much of the change for the better was down to improvement in the economy, but the bank said its more pro-active approach to managing the banking arrangements of customers experiencing trading difficulties had helped.

There were two provisions for sums above £5 million compared with seven in 1992. The two are understood to be against the bank's exposure to stricken Queens Moat Houses, where it has written off its debts, and against its exposure to the holding company of the collapsed Windsor Safari Park.

Mr Mathewson said: "Last year we made a lot of promises, which we have more than delivered this year. The UK banking business has now recovered from the difficult trading year experienced in the previous year. The dividend for the year rose by 25 per cent to 11p. Mr

Mathewson said the bank is "confident of delivering a stable and growing dividend stream for our shareholders".

Reduced bad debt provisions helped branch banking to return to profits of £69.7 million after £16.1 million losses last time. Corporate and institutional banking had a 92 per cent profit rise to £129.7 million, helped by a 70 per cent increase in profits from foreign exchange and derivatives activities to £107.5 million.

Direct Line profits, reported last week, were three times higher at £50.2 million. Citizens saw profits climb 84 per cent to £36.3 million. Increased profitability in credit card businesses helped the operations division increase its profits by 45 per cent to £51.5 million.

The bank's cost-income ratio, a key measure of efficiency, improved by four percentage points to 58.4 per cent, with income growth at 17 per cent and costs at 10 per cent. Robert Speirs, the finance director, said any further decrease will have to come mainly from income growth, as the bank was not planning to cut expenses and was planning a "fairly substantial" investment programme.

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MERCEDES DRIVE

by

Europcar Interrent

Volkswagen moves ahead on hard road to change

Frantic streamlining by Europe's biggest carmaker is beginning to feed through favourably to the balance sheet, says Colin Narbrough

Volkswagen, Europe's biggest carmaker, is still struggling to eliminate huge losses, but Ferdinand Piëch's first year at the VW helm has delivered the shock treatment many analysts consider vital to waking Germany from its cosy, corporatist dream.

Herr Piëch's approach has been too abrasive for many who come from the well-mannered, educated upper echelons of German industry and commerce. The single-minded Austrian engineer, a member of the Porsche dynasty, has even provoked outrage from battle-hardened bosses of the American car industry.

His poaching of José Ignacio López de Arriortúa, the controversial "cost-killer" from General Motors, has led VW into a public and bitter confrontation with the world's leading automobile group and into a legal web spanning the Atlantic.

Yet, no one would dispute that VW, founded to produce the "people's car" in the Third Reich, was in need of change. Its German plants have some of the highest labour costs in the world car industry. A recent study by McKinsey Global Institute shows that assembly workers in the German motor industry produced 66 per cent of the value added per hour by their American counterparts.

Labour market rigidity, which for much of the postwar period produced valuable industrial harmony in Germany, is only one of problems now. The strength of the mark and the opening up of low-wage economies immediately to the east of Germany have played their part in making VW production in Germany too costly.

Severe recession across the European market has merely brought the underlying problems into harsh focus. McKinsey concludes that German lags behind the American and Japanese car industries in terms of productivity, primarily because of the complexity in manufacturing design, plus problems arising from the way labour is organised.

The latest figures from the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association highlight VW's difficulties. While new car registrations in Western Europe dropped by 15.2 per cent year on year in the first ten months of this year, VW registrations were down by 20.4 per cent, making it the worst performer apart from Italy's Fiat among the European volume carmakers.

But Herr Piëch and his Basque production and purchasing czar have taken a big knife to costs, helping all divisions, save Seat, its troubled Spanish subsidiary, out of the red, in spite of the falling sales volumes. As Herr Piëch has disclosed, Seat is now expected to lose about DM2 billion this year, the same as the group loss, which means break-even for the rest of the empire.

Although Herr Piëch foresees no marked improvement in the car market next year, he can probably look forward to a profit in 1994, helped by the four-day week agreement concluded with his 100,000 workforce in Germany. The deal breaks new ground for the German labour market, introducing a trade-off of 30,000 jobs saved in return for a day less work a week and labour cost cuts worth DM1.8 billion.

Frantic streamlining under the guidance of Señor López, who is reputed to



Glory days of Volkswagen, when "Beetles" rolled off the conveyor belt at the plant in Wolfsburg

have saved GM \$1 billion in only ten months, is starting to feed through favourably to the balance sheet. The shorter working week, regarded as the socially more acceptable alternative to 30,000 redundancies over the next two years, is of particular benefit to VW as it avoids having to make expensive settlements.

Not that the crisis is over for VW or for the German car industry. Uncertainty about the timing of economic recovery in Germany only helps undermine demand. Industry forecasts paint a picture of little improvement in the West European market next year, after a very sharp drop this year, with further falls still possible in Germany and Italy. While the world car market is expected to decline by 3 per cent this year, Germany is seen as the epicentre of the worst pain in European carmaking since the second world war.

After the empire-building days of Carl Hahn, his predecessor as management board chairman at VW, Herr Piëch has won praise for his bold attempts to address excessive costs. Señor López, hired at an annual salary of DM2.6 million, has focused on simplifying production, cutting the num-

ber of components and pressing suppliers to lower prices and become more directly engaged in fitting components to vehicles. The four-day week deal may not have done much for productivity, but in the longer run, it has opened the way to greater labour flexibility.

Given the rise of low-cost manufacturing in Southeast Asia, and production migrating to the former Soviet bloc, Germans' anxiety about the viability of their country as an industrial location is probably justified. Herr Piëch and his "lean and mean" squad could play an important part in restoring German confidence, but the way they have been going about it smacks of desperation.

Herr Piëch seems to have badly overstepped the mark in his pursuit of the best cost-cutters. He has hired VW in a messy chain of legal enquiries and his critics believe the supervisory board chaired by Klaus Liesen has been over-indulgent as far as Herr Piëch's judgment is concerned. Since Herr Piëch, grandson of the designer of the VW "Beetle", secured the services of Señor López and other executives, who accompanied him from GM, VW has

been dogged by corporate wrangles and seen its clean public image sullied.

Señor López, 52, has been the prime cause of Herr Piëch's tribulations. In spite of VW's defence of him, his switch to VW was marked by a swastika-like style that has caused unease in the staid boardrooms of Germany. As late as March 9, the day he signed his contract with VW, Señor López took part in a strategic planning session at Opel, GM's German subsidiary.

On March 10, he phoned Jack Smith, the head of GM to say he was quitting. Three days later, Mr Smith persuaded him to change his mind, only to see him go to Wolfsburg. On March 22, five close colleagues from GM HQ in Detroit and two more from Opel at Rüsselsheim, resigned to move to VW.

GM immediately demanded in writing that Señor López should confirm that no confidential GM or Opel documents had been taken. Opel also had a writ issued to prevent the systematic hiring of its executives by VW.

In April, Señor López wrote to GM disputing an accusation that he had taken documents, but by the end of the month, Opel had formally asked the public prosecutor's office in Darmstadt, Germany, to look into alleged industrial espionage by Señor López. Three weeks later, the public prosecutor in the Wiesbaden found boxes of Opel papers in the former flat of two colleagues of Señor López.

Herr Piëch's future with VW started to be questioned. But he publicly defended Señor López. By August, however, the legal net had been cast wider against the former GM executives. Señor López's aides were found to have spent five days shredding documents at VW's guest house soon after moving to the company. The VW supervisory board was finally forced to order an external report into the whole affair.

The report from KPMG Deutsche Treuhand, made public in summary form last week, was commissioned and paid for by VW. The audit team found no evidence that VW used secret data from its competitors in the development of new car models. However, its findings were dismissed by GM and the German press.

Opel's charge that VW was engaged in a "dishonourable cover-up manoeuvre" suggests there will be no early end to the legal battle.



José Ignacio López de Arriortúa, left, with Ferdinand Piëch, VW's chief

TEMPUS

Who'd be a lawyer?

WHAT a shame we all cannot buy shares in GrandMet's solicitors. The £20 million that the food and drink group has set aside for legal bills in its dispute over William Hill is a reminder of the astonishing fees the legal system earns from such corporate tiffs. Just pray GrandMet never becomes embroiled in a full-scale American court battle.

The market was prepared to be magnanimous about GrandMet's unexpected £136 million property and William Hill provisions, after a set of figures that prove that Sir Allen Sheppard has yet again pulled the fat out of the fire. The sudden rise in free cash flow to £499 million, combined with the top-price sale of Chief & Brewer, has reduced gearing to a "mere" 256 per cent, excluding brand valuations. Without them, the balance sheet was beginning to look shaky. GrandMet still has

problems. Inntrepreneur is eating up cash, and GrandMet's wish for a break-even result this year may not be granted. IDV will lose a £35 million profit earner when its Absolut distribution deal expires. But the recent disposals are finally letting the power of IDV's cashflow show through.

The group's degearing is likely to continue. Pearle and the Inntrepreneur stake will be sold as soon as they are in any fit state. Longer term, Burger King does not fit with GrandMet's ambitions in food manufacturing. A sale could raise up to £1 billion, preparing the way for the next big acquisition. GrandMet's food division is still a disparate collection of brands and needs more weight to operate in global markets. Until then, the recovery in the group's fortunes and dwindling fears about its financial position will underpin the shares.

BTR

As *Tempus* suggested two weeks ago, BTR's recent disposals have steered it for a large acquisition and here it is. The purchase of Renord bears similarities to Hanson's acquisition of Quantum earlier this year. Both are heavily borrowed industrial companies whose profitability their new parents can transform by renegotiating the debt. BTR will save up to \$20 million by rescheduling Renord's \$400 million loans, which should ensure the business enhances earnings at once.

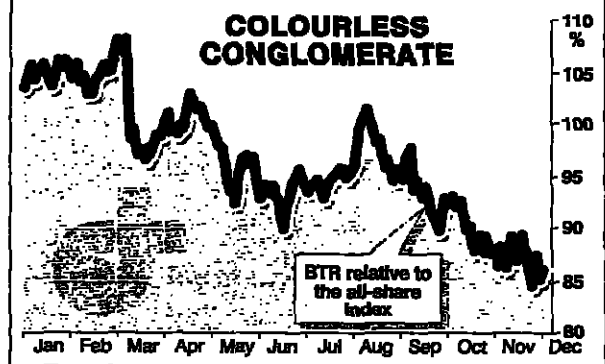
Strangely, BTR plans to run Renord as a stand-alone business even though its product range of seals, conveying systems and transmission components fits well with existing operations. But the group can extract higher earnings by marketing prod-

ucts in new regions such as Asia and Europe.

The acquisition comes at a key moment for BTR, which is wringing the final benefits out of Hawker Siddeley. Investors have sensed a risk that the group was going to grow and the shares have been sliding relative to the market all year. Renord should give BTR impetus just

as markets for its industrial products are reviving.

The deal will push gearing as high as 70 per cent in the short term, but this will fall with next year's flotation of Graham Builders merchants. Besides, the outlook on interest rates suggests that any business not gearing up for the recovery is missing a golden opportunity.



Hanson

WITH a static dividend, heavy interest burden and a rising tax charge, Hanson is beginning to show all the frailties of a normal company. The City can hardly complain: it carped loudly about the low quality of Hanson's earnings during the ICI affair. Now the earnings from interest rate arbitrage and the questionable tax efficiencies have disappeared, the group can be judged on its merits.

Similarly, Hanson is becoming less cagey about releasing information. Yesterday it even revealed a breakdown of its provision utilisation. This spirit of *glasnost* did little to help the share price, since the market was spooked by the size of the interest charge in the current year. No wonder Derek Bonham is so keen to make disposals. Unless he is fast, the £275 million extra cost will wipe out much of the gain in operating profits this year.

Hanson's attraction remains its high gearing to industrial and commodity markets. The performance of Cavenham shows how profits will be transformed when the aggregates and chemical markets turn. Until then, the shares have potential despite their loss of mystique.

MEPC

AS THE value of property shares has been bid up on the strength of falling yields and hopes of rental growth, MEPC's results are a useful reminder to investors that bricks and mortar values move more slowly than share certificates. Much of the fall in investment yields may have occurred after MEPC's August revaluation but there are signs that new developments, like Alban Gate, may have received harsher treatment than expected from the external valuers.

With that in mind, MEPC's new chairman is right to draw attention away from the theoretical world of values to the nuts and bolts of rents and cash flow. Unfortunately, MEPC's dividend is still uncovered by earnings. Since patchy occupier demand means that solid growth in rental values is more than a year away, full cover should not be expected

until 1995 at the earliest. But MEPC could still be a winner longer term with a large slug of its portfolio let at the depressed rental levels of recent years. Rent reviews in 1996 should show a significant bounce and in the meantime the shares are yielding a substantial 4.8 per cent.

Severn Trent

BY SQUEEZING more out of its core business, Severn Trent focuses attention on its difficulties at the same time as it demonstrates its strengths. Water consumption is falling, and the company is only buying time by making its business more efficient as the regulator gradually squeezes its margins with stiffer price controls. Ultimately, dividend growth must come from elsewhere and there is still little evidence that the non-regulated sector can deliver. The international business is in spending mode and Biffa, although making profits, is still weighed down by acquisition debt. Severn's skills would be best applied to a less efficient water company but bids in the sector look a long way off.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Benyon tries the Midas touch

KENNETH Clarke's Budget was said to show signs of mathematical wizardry, but carry Lloyd's name. Tom Benyon has proved to be even nippier with his sums. Having totted up the insurance market's losses from 1988, including those forecast for 1991, Benyon began to muse over what the final figure of £7 billion could have bought. After a few phone calls, he discovered that he could commission ten foot high statues of a string of former Lloyd's chairmen. Murray Lawrence, Peter Green, Peter Miller and David Coleridge—all in 19 carat gold. And with a bit of haggling, he found that if his budget is boosted by a deterioration in the 1992 underwriting year then there should be just enough for another statue of current chairman David Rowland. However, if hard-pressed names find the idea of the "golden" chairmen to much to stomach—some would argue that lead would be too generous—then they may prefer Benyon's second discovery: that £7 billion would pay for the Channel tunnel to be

extended all the way to the Lloyd's building in Lime Street. A convenient escape route to France, perhaps, if the heat from aggrieved members gets too intense.

Change of chef

THE Roux Brothers are dropping out of City dining rooms. Compass Group, the caterer, is buying Michel and Albert Roux's contract catering business for a reputed £900,000. The deal gives Compass the contract to serve City firms including Kleinwort Benson, Morgan Stanley and James Capel, among others. Two

Roux restaurants in the Square Mile, Le Foulbot and Roux Britannia, are on the market following a sharp slump in business.

Marching orders

CADBURY Schweppes has told John Cleeve to take a walk from the American fizzy drinks commercials he has fronted for the past four years. The star of the Monty Python series, cult viewing for American audiences who best remember Cleeve as the Minister of Silly Walks, goes as part of a shake up in Cadbury's American ambitions. It has re-

cently spent almost £400 million on a larger stake in Dr Pepper and the entire A&W Brands, which makes America's leaders in root beer and cream soda. Cleeve was involved in the Schweppes ads, but that, and the crush soda brands, are now all under Cadbury's Canada Dry line with one Chicago agency. Karl Johnson, Cadbury marketing executive says the firm has developed a new campaign direction that is testing well "but doesn't call for John's talents".

Miners' patron

MINERS, and mining analysts, will undoubtedly be resting their shovels and calculators tomorrow and offering up the odd prayer here and there—and not only for metal prices. For tomorrow is the day of the mining industry's patron saint—St Barbara. Justin Birchmore, of the aptly named Australian group St Barbara Mines, graciously wishing my mining colleague a happy St Barbara's day, a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year on a suitably embossed card, says the martyred St Barbara was one of the most loved saints of the Middle Ages, and her execution was the basis for eventual

sainthood "and patronage of miners, gunners and those who work in danger". St Barbara, please pray for the gold price.

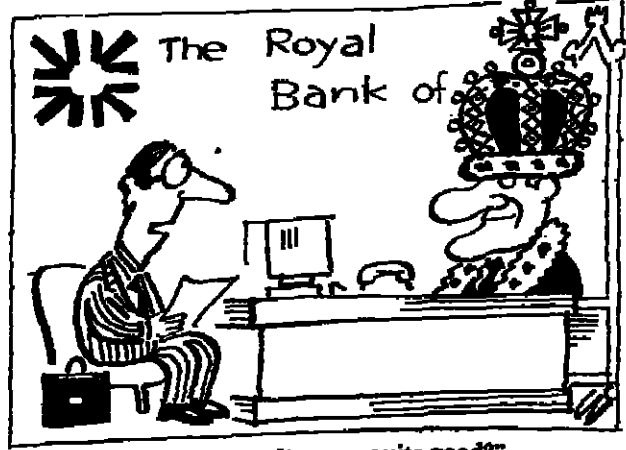
Called to rights

MONEY-RAISING in the City can be confusing. Ralph Hinchcliffe, supremo of the Heywood Williams building products group, launched a £50.6 million rights issue yesterday to bankroll an American acquisition, recalling his previous £28 million call on the market was a couple of years ago. Asked what the earlier rights was for, he turned to an associate with a puzzled frown and asked: "Why did we do that last one?"

Vallance degree

IAIN Vallance, chairman of BT, is about to pick up an honorary degree from Kingston University. He will receive an honorary doctorate of business administration in recognition of his distinguished contribution to British industry and business education. The ceremony takes place at the Barbican in London on Tuesday.

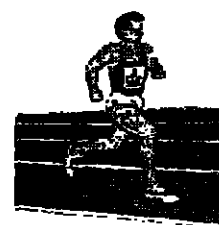
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SECURITISED ENDOWMENT CONTRACTS PLC

Anglian appoints new chief and looks to strategy change

Anglian Group is ready to embark on a new growth phase, searching for acquisitions to take advantage of its stock market listing as the economy emerges from recession

By Sarah Bagnall

ANGLIAN Group, the double glazing company, announced the appointment of a new chief executive from next September, in a move that is expected to herald a significant change of corporate strategy. The announcement was made as Anglian reported a 19 per cent rise in interim profits.

Bill Hancock, current chief executive, is to retire next September after 17 years, during which time the company was bought out by management and floated on the stock market.

Mr Hancock is to make way for Ron Swift, managing director of Anglian Windows and chairman of New England Windows, who has been with the company 20 years. His appointment signals a change in gear at Anglian, which floated in July 1992.

David Herman, finance director, said: "We are now looking at the next phase of our strategy, which involves entering into new territories and, as a result, Mr Hancock said it was appropriate to have a new head."

Anglian intends to move into supplying components to small window and door manufacturers, a market dominated by private companies.

"This expansion could be through acquisition or organic growth," Mr Herman said. In the six months to October 2, profits at Anglian increased to £12.2 million from £10.3

million on the back of increased turnover of £84 million, up 18 per cent from last time.

Profits and turnover were helped by a first-time contribution from New England Windows, acquired in March. New England made a profit of £422,000 on turnover of £7 million. Turnover from continuing operations rose 8 per cent to £77 million, of which more than half was due to increased volumes.

The dividend was lifted 11 per cent to 4.1p and the pro-forma earnings per share rose from 8.5p to 9.1p, but the City was unimpressed and the shares slid 22p to 33p. Analysts took fright over the company's view that orders from PSA, the property services agency, would fall to return to historically high levels. The PSA accounted for about 75 per cent of the commercial division's work last time, but the company said "it is now our belief that future orders will be placed in the wider market rather than exclusively with approved contractors".

The company replaced flagging PSA sales with local authority work, hitting margins in the process. Competitors, principally smaller manufacturers, have been cutting prices in a bid to lift volumes, but Anglian said it was doing its best to stay out of entering into a price war.



David Herman, left, and Bill Hancock saw interim profits rise 19 per cent

Scapa acquires French tape manufacturer

By Philip Pangalos

SCAPA Group, the industrial materials group based in Blackburn, announced an 11 per cent advance in first-half profits with news of further European expansion through the £20 million acquisition of a French specialist tape manufacturer.

Scapa, which makes specialist products for the paper and printing industry, has bought Barriere to strengthen its specialist tape division which already comprises three other

businesses in Britain, Italy and France. The latest acquisition will be completed by the end of the month and will be funded from Scapa's existing cash resources.

Barriere is based in Valence, France, but has further sales and distribution offices in Germany and Spain, and employs 260 people. It made pre-tax profits of FF15 million (£2 million) in 1992, on turnover of FF225 million.

Harry Tukey, chairman, said Barriere's product range is complementary to Scapa's. "It also gives us some

additional technology and a very good base in Germany, and it puts turnover of the tapes business at about £70 million, making us one of the largest manufacturers of specialist adhesive tapes in Europe," he said.

A combination of organic growth, acquisitions and currency benefits helped Scapa's pre-tax profits climb to £22.2 million (£20 million) in the six months to end-September, on sales ahead 19 per cent to £187.2 million. More than two-thirds of Scapa's turnover is derived overseas.

Earnings climb to 6.1p (5.7p) a share and the interim dividend is raised to 1.65p (1.6p), with an enhanced scrip alternative 50 per cent higher at 2.475p. Scapa shares firmed 2p to 218p.

It is starting an engineered fabrics plant in Malaysia to serve the growing markets in south east Asia and the Pacific Rim.

In spite of few signs of economic upturn, Mr Tukey is cautiously optimistic about prospects, with new products and improved efficiency expected to allow further progress.

Heywood buy in America lifts shares

By Martin Flanagan

SHARES in Heywood Williams, the building products group, leapt 18p to 362p yesterday, as the City registered its approval of the announced £54.9 million acquisition of Bristol Products of America, which is mainly engaged in plumbing.

Heywood Williams, which is based in Huddersfield, is funding the significant broadening of its US interests via a £50.6 million cash call on shareholders, on the basis of one share for every four held at 280p a share. This is a 23 per cent discount to yesterday's market price.

Bristol, believed to have made profits of £8.4 million in the year to November 30, makes plumbing products for the housing market, including mobile homes, and fits neatly with LaSalle, another of Heywood's US building products subsidiaries, which was bought in June.

It is understood Bristol approached Heywood to ask if it was interested in buying it when the former lost the battle to win LaSalle.

Ralph Hinchliffe, Heywood's chairman, said yesterday that Bristol's markets were growing as the US economy "remains about 18 months ahead of the UK in terms of recovery".

He said there was scope for eventual cost savings in both central administration - Bristol's headquarters is only 10 miles from LaSalle's - and in areas where there were overlapping depots.

Heywood says it is still in the market for further acquisitions, and would be able to fund one for cash up to about £30 million. Industry watchers believe any further purchase is more likely to be in the US or UK, given the more recessionary conditions in continental Europe at present.

The latest strategic move means that 47 per cent of the group's sales are in America, 44 per cent in Britain and 9 per cent in continental Europe.

Robin Hardy, sector analyst at Panmure Gordon, the equities house, said the acquisition represented "a marvellous deal for Heywood, achieved at a realistic price, and which could open all sorts of doors for the group."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Telspec founder to net £14m after flotation

FRANK Hackett-Jones, founder and chairman of Telspec, a Kent group that designs and makes telecommunications equipment, is set to receive £13.9 million when his company comes to market. Shares in Telspec are being placed with institutions at 160p each, raising about £20.2 million and capitalising the group at £50.7 million.

The company will receive a net £5 million after expenses of more than £1 million, and the rest, will go to Mr Hackett-Jones, who founded the company in 1975. Mr Hackett-Jones will hold a 60.1 per cent stake in Telspec after flotation. Telspec made pre-tax profits of £3.36 million in 1992, on turnover of £18.2 million, and profits of £1.94 million in the six months to June 30, on turnover of £8.53 million. Telspec forecasts pre-tax profits of at least £3.3 million for the year to December 31, 1993, and a notional net dividend of 2.5p for the year. Dealing is due to start next Thursday.

Cooper Rolls £40m deal

COOPER Rolls, the joint venture marketing company of Rolls-Royce, has received orders worth more than £40 million for Coberra gas turbines and Cooper-Bessemer pipeline centrifugal compressors. Four Coberra units will be used for gas compression on the Europe Maghreb Pipeline system in Morocco and one will go to Canada. Two are for power generation in the North Sea. Each Moroccan Coberra unit will drive a Cooper-Bessemer compressor.

TI agrees joint venture

TI Group, the engineering company in the middle of a £100 million investment programme, has confirmed it has signed an agreement to merge its aircraft landing gear business with that of Snecma of France. The parties announced they were in talks to merge their Dowty and Messier-Bugatti landing gear operations last June, and said yesterday the new Messier-Dowty joint venture hoped to win regulatory and shareholder approval early in 1994.

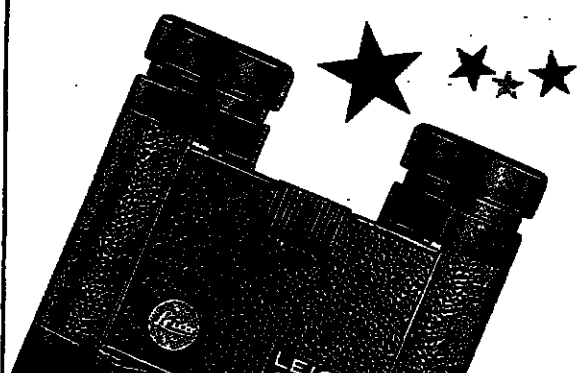
Chinese stake for P&O

P&O, the shipping group, is to acquire the majority of a company that owns 51 per cent of a container terminal in Zhangjiagang, China, four hours up-river from Shanghai. The agreement calls for the purchase of a controlling interest in Win Hanverky Investments, which has a 51 per cent stake in Zhangjiagang-Win Container Terminals. The remaining 49 per cent is owned by the Zhangjiagang Harbour Bureau. The price of the acquisition was not disclosed.

Logica cuts 100 jobs

LOGICA, the computer group, is axing 100 jobs as part of its drive to improve profit margins and boost revenue. The jobs will be lost mainly from administrative and support functions, mostly in Britain and America, the company said. The redundancies will cost the group about £2.3 million. Dr Martin Read, managing director and chief executive, said Logica must maintain a tight control on costs and make more use of its international network of companies.

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OECD gloom over Japanese economy

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

THE Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) expects Japan's economy to shrink this year and grow feebly in 1994.

In a last-minute change to its annual report on Japan which was released yesterday, the organisation said its outlook had become more gloomy since the survey was compiled in September.

An official said: "Since the compilation of the report, OECD growth forecasts for Japan have been revised to below zero per cent for 1993 and well below one per cent for 1994."

The report originally forecast zero growth for Japanese GDP in 1993 and then a rise of 1.4 per cent. That was a sharp downward revision from the OECD's July projection of 1 per cent for 1993 and 3.3 per cent for 1994. Japan's real GDP grew 1.3 per cent in 1992, down from 4 per cent.

However, Japan's Econom-

ic Planning Agency (EPA) still believes 1993 performance will prove better than zero growth. "It (the OECD forecast) is different from ours because we expect a fairly good effect from (economic stimulus) measures taken so far," an EPA official said. To counter the recession, Japan has cut interest rates and boosted public works spending and low-interest state loans for the past two years.

The OECD report said that with falling tax revenue, these steps may give the central government a deficit equal to 2.5 per cent of GDP, prompting more borrowing from the public. It expressed alarm that Japan's public sector debt ratio against GDP had stopped falling and was likely to rise again. The OECD noted that the yen's appreciation and this year's unusually cool, wet summer in Japan depressed the economy, which had shown signs of recovery in the first quarter.

Metro Radio plays upbeat results tune

By Our City Staff

SHARES in Metro Radio Group surged 31p to 233p as an upturn in local and regional advertising revenue helped the Newcastle-based commercial radio stations group tune into a healthy 27 per cent advance in full-year profits.

The USM-quoted company, which operates radio stations in the North-East and Yorkshire, reported pre-tax profits of £2.37 million (£1.86 million) in the year to end-September. Turnover grew to £17.7 million (£15.1 million), with advertising revenue ahead 16.6 per cent to £14.7 million. Local and regional revenue was 23 per cent higher, while national revenue increased by 1.9 per cent.

Neil Robinson, chairman, said: "We have made an excellent start to the new financial year, with advertising revenue in October and November well ahead of last year. There are signs that



Robinson: confident

confidence is slowly returning to our marketplace, the demand for advertising has been consistently stronger in recent months than for some time. I am confident about future prospects."

Earnings climb to 9.4p (7.5p) a share. The total dividend is improved by 10 per cent to 5.5p (5p), with a proposed final payout of 4p.

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INFOTECH

Manufacturers, eager to enter your home, are making computers simpler to set up, says Matthew May

PCs plug in to a new market

If you are thinking of buying a personal computer, you could be in for a pleasant surprise — although first-time buyers may also experience a nasty shock.

While PC prices are cheaper now than ever — often less than half what they were just a couple of years ago — today's PCs are also far more powerful machines. Manufacturers are hoping that there is a huge sales opportunity for selling such machines for use in the home and to the growing market recently identified among small offices and home offices, dubbed "Soho".

With fast PCs now becoming available for less than £1,000 — an important psychological watershed price for home users — the belief is that a new group of buyers will be attracted. While accessories, such as printers (which for many purchasers will be essential), are likely to cost extra, if you have up to £1,500 available to spend, there is a bewildering choice of high-performance PCs. Even the cheapest machines now often include a reasonable range of software packages thrown in.

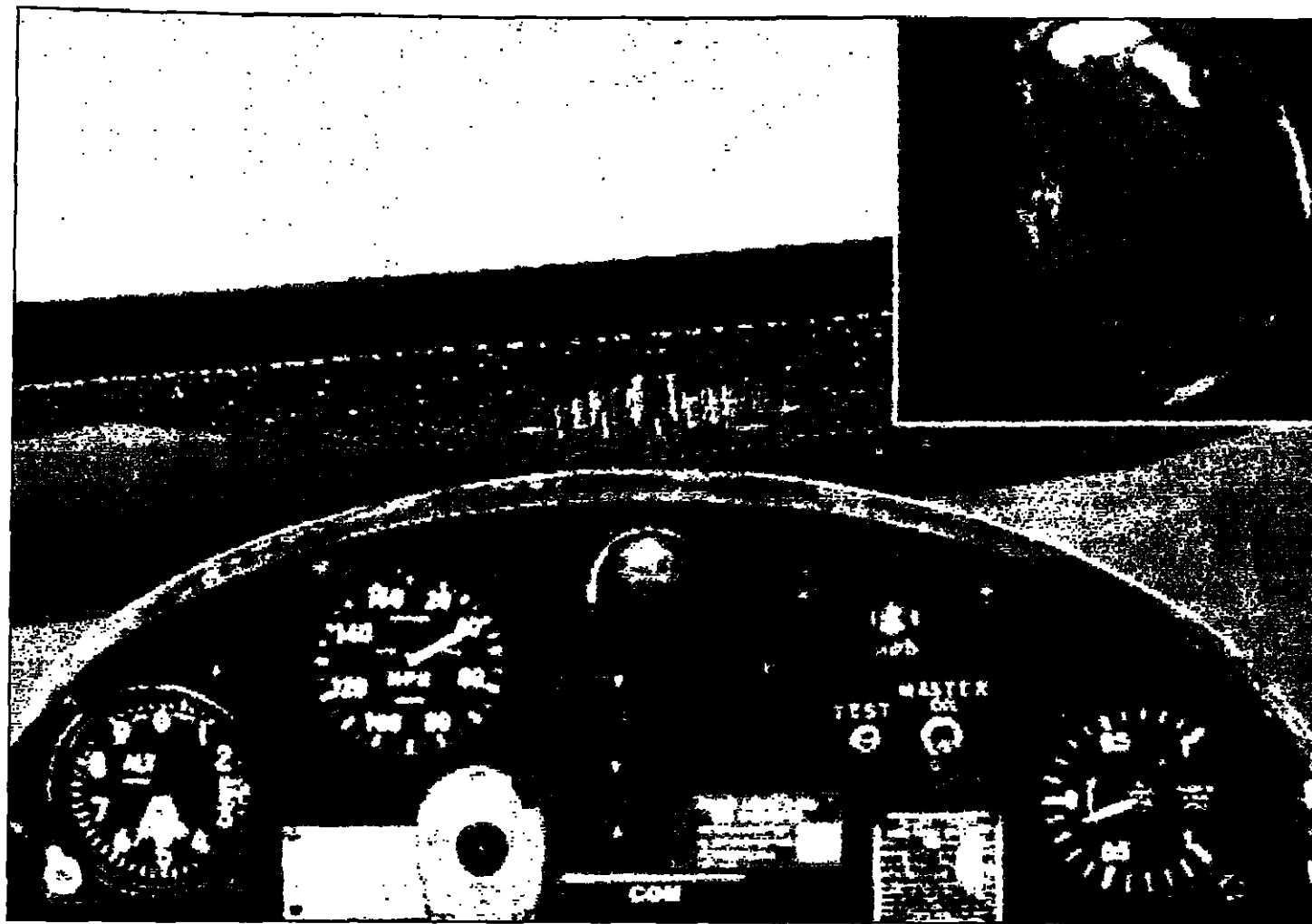
Some of the most serious business PCs often include entertainment software, as manufacturers try to appeal to those wanting a machine for both serious and light-hearted, recreational use.

But if you have never had to unpack a PC from a box and set it up from scratch, you could be in for an unpleasant surprise if you have bought one of the many PCs that can require days to be spent poring over a manual before they will do what you want them to.

Those familiar with PCs, and with all the technicalities, soon forget how steep the learning curve is for new users. Some PCs leave purchasers in the equivalent role of the earliest car buyers, where every owner had to be something of a mechanic if they wanted to get much use out of their vehicles.

PCs have got much easier to use, particularly once they are up and running. Some, however, are better than others when it comes to how quickly they can be of use once unpacked. Apple Computer, for example, has long been noted for products that are relatively easy to set up and use. Hefty price cuts have made them far more appealing to the home market.

Other big manufacturers, such as Compaq, IBM and Dell, are also



Microsoft is on the fifth version of its Flight Simulator software, but computer firms' plans for the home go far beyond providing entertainment

making efforts to make their PCs easier to use and set up, while some offer telephone helplines for those who get into trouble. But if you are interested in buying the cheapest available PC, there are still many budget machines where getting the product out of the box is the only part of setting up the machine that could be considered straightforward.

This process is not helped by manual writers who assume that explaining in simple terms about installing programs and configuring a PC is as unnecessary as telling the owner of a new car that it needs to be put into gear before it will go anywhere.

And there are still those who consider that any problems are the fault of the customer. As one American computer consultant put

it, "users have the attention of a tsetse fly when it comes to installing gear". But if customers want a PC to be as simple to use as a toaster, that is the industry's problem, not the purchasers'.

Even manufacturers who do better than most admit that there is considerable room for improvement. Last month, a consortium of more than 20 computer companies announced the result of six months work by Compaq and Phoenix Technologies — a "Plug-and-Play" specification that aims to "make it dramatically easier to install and configure PCs".

This industry standard set of instructions should ensure that PCs will automatically recognise software, connect to networks more easily and accept the connection of new devices such as CD-ROM drives

without laborious procedures or the need to rummage about in the insides of a PC.

Apart from giving customers what they want, if the Plug-and-Play concept does work, it should help manufacturers reduce the cost of customer support, such as telephone helplines, which is rising fast as more machines are sold to novices. Plug-and-Play computers should start to go on sale next year with the next version of Microsoft's Windows operating system set to use the new standard.

Microsoft, the world's largest software company, is particularly keen on expanding the use of its programs into the home. It has long produced entertainment software — its flight simulator has been going ten years and is now available in a fifth version in

which the company promises a "new standard of photo-realistic flight".

Microsoft is so convinced that PCs will take off in the home that it is planning 200 new software products for next year. Bill Gates, the chairman of Microsoft, is already looking further ahead, at how his company can play a part in what he predicts will be the "smart home" of the future, with services ranging from electronic home banking and shopping to being able to turn on the central heating by phone.

For Mr Gates's vision to become reality, however, such products will have to be extremely simple to use. Customers are even less likely to want to reconfigure their bank account or reboot the central heating than they are their PCs.

ONLINE

Video's new archive

THE use of video in business became easier this week as Novell introduced a package that will handle video playback across a computer network.

Netware Video, which can handle up to 25 users, costs from about £800 and lets users simultaneously store, manage and play compressed digital video files.

Customers for the new service range from an airline using it for training to an advertising agency, where Netware will give desktop access to libraries of television advertisements.

been averted says America's Semiconductor Industry Association.

The trade group made the announcement after a major epoxy resin manufacturing line operated by Sumitomo Chemical in Nihama, Japan, resumed production after being shut down in July due to an explosion.

The SIA said resumption of operations at the facility will boost production of the resin to meet worldwide semiconductor industry needs for the foreseeable future.

Home and away

BT is offering to arrange for one-half of any pair of £750 videophones sold to be installed almost anywhere in the world.

Radio wave

PC USERS can now add a stereo FM radio card to their PC for £58. Called Radio Track, it has ten preset channels and can use either an existing PC speaker, external speakers, headphones or can be plugged direct into a sound card.

Germany calling

HUTCHISON Microtel, the company which is planning to launch a mobile phone service in major British cities next spring, which will be accessible to half the population, has signed an agreement with E Plus Mobilfunk, which is to introduce a similar service in Germany at the same time.

It means that customers for one service will be able to use their phones on the other's network and be billed for calls at home as normal.



The offer is part of a Christmas promotion to boost sluggish sales. BT's publicity says: "Just picture leading mum or dad down the stairs on Christmas morning and setting up your own Surprise Surprise by having a sister in Australia on the end of the videophone."

Cable stitch

PRODIGY and America Online have announced plans to deliver online services to personal computers through cable networks in a project with Intel and General Instrument.

The alliance responds to the growing demand for high-speed data connections for personal computers and will allow cable television companies to deliver computer data and software to users in their homes.

Taxing Texas

COMMISSIONERS in Texas have denied a tax break sought by Apple Computer for a new facility because of the company's employee benefits plan, which covers same-sex partners.

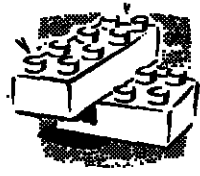
Apple officials said they may reconsider plans to build the £50 million complex just north of Austin, Texas. The proposed facility would create 700 new jobs. The local commissioners voted 5-2 against Apple's request for a tax abatement on the project. Three of the commissioners said that they believed that Apple's benefits policy went against the community's moral values.

Chip, chip, hooray

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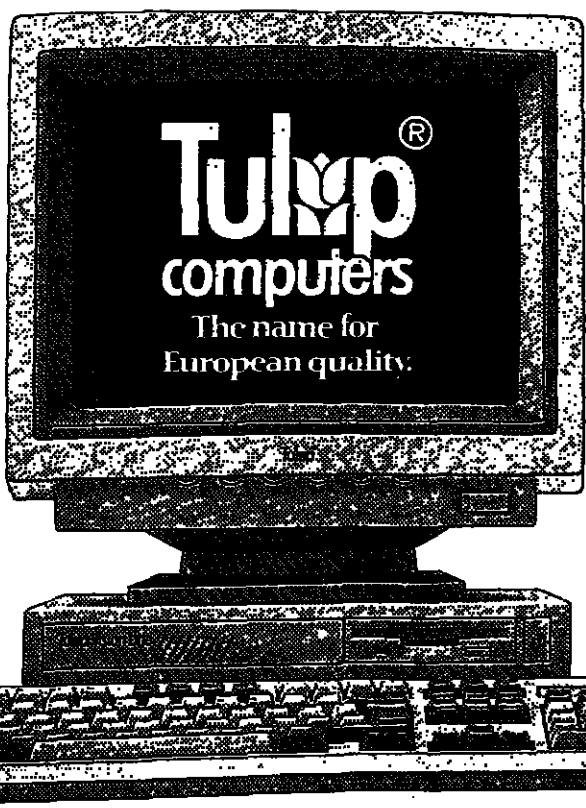
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Groupware is becoming the business tool that gives companies a head start on their rivals. David Hewson reports

Are you in on the secret?

Groupware used to be one of those IT buzzwords that caused endless sniggers down the corridors. Companies without a groupware product ridiculed it as the ultimate in computing hype; those that owned one struggled hard to come up with a firm definition for what it could offer the customer. Such companies struggled even harder to find the customers themselves.

Groupware brings intelligence to the computer network in a way that is limited primarily by the imagination of those introducing it. Diary management, customer support, sales tracking, report writing and sharing, and automatic contact with the staff on the road are just a few of the roles that groupware can take on.

Installed well, it fits snugly with the kind of flattened, open, information-sharing management structure popular in many modern companies. Installed badly, it is an expensive electronic mail system. Few of the things that groupware can do, from "cutting" articles out of electronic news wires to automatically rerouting electronic messages to a travelling executive, could not be achieved using other software.

What makes groupware unique is that when it works well, things happen simply and seamlessly alongside any other applications users may have on their desks.

The sophistication, which may extend to a world-wide network of thousands of users, is buried under the surface: all the user sees are the parts needed for the job.

Groupware is now in vogue. Software companies far and wide are trying to stick a groupware tag on as many products in their catalogues as possible.

IBM's OS/2 operating system is being touted as an essential tool for the market, as is Microsoft's rival Windows for Workgroups. The bandwagon is starting to roll. More remarkably, companies that have adopted groupware have taken an increasingly secretive attitude towards telling the world what they do with the technology.

Lotus, a founder of the sector with its Notes product, is running an advertising campaign featuring a senior manager anxiously covering the screen of his personal computer with his hands and asking: "Groupware, what groupware?"

For once, this may not be industry hype. One senior information technology manager with a large multinational, when asked to be a case study for this article, threw up his hands in horror. "We've spent a lot of money getting a competitive advantage with this stuff over the past few years," he said. "Even if we're only two months ahead of our rivals, that's two months I intend to keep." The rivals are also buying groupware



Speed and ease of use were vital, says Martin Jorden, who managed the introduction of groupware for Standard Chartered Bank

and they, too, prefer to keep it secret.

The three main companies producing general office software for the personal computer market — Microsoft, Lotus and the recent alliance between Borland and Word Perfect — each have a very clear picture of what makes a groupware system, but unfortunately, these visions rarely overlap.

Microsoft argues that the abilities for a group working facility should already be there in a network operating system and the applications that run on it, without the need to buy an expensive add-on product such as Notes. Borland

takes a similar approach, but has developed new "collaboration engine" software that sits between users and the network and allows them to communicate and share data across a wide number of applications.

To confuse things even further, several companies are adapting their own products to others' groupware systems, as well as trying to set their own standards. So Microsoft is giving some of its office applications the ability to work more closely with Lotus Notes, for example, while simultaneously trying to steer people towards its own groupware products.

Microsoft and Borland's approach may, in the first instance, be cheap, but for most users it will depend upon custom-built packages written by a programmer. Lotus Notes, on the other hand, is a simpler product and, for people whose work consists primarily of reading and writing reports, it may be all the software they regularly need. But it comes at a price — in an "introductory offer" for three people, one server and two clients, it costs £795, excluding VAT, and licences per work station start at £375 each.

Groupware appeals to large companies that buy it in a big way.

General Motors, for example, has Notes on the desks of about 25,000 of its staff worldwide. Even with bulk discounts, this is not the sort of commitment to be taken lightly.

A rare groupware user willing to go public on the subject is Standard Chartered Bank, which has introduced a Lotus Notes network for its dealing operations in a number of international centres, including London. The network replaces previous telex and fax links between the bank's offices and forms an internal information network for the bank's treasury and dealing activities, recording transactions and potential deals.

'We've spent a lot of money getting a competitive advantage with this stuff over the past two years'

A Lotus Notes database in London is automatically updated every 15 minutes through electronic links with other offices in New York, Los Angeles, Hong Kong, Singapore and Sydney, with other branches due to come on line soon.

Martin Jorden, manager of the project for the bank, said: "First of all our system is about management, then it is about transactions. We need to know as fast as we can who we have quoted to and then, if they have turned us down, why."

Mr Jorden has little time for any of the alternative groupware ideologies which involve programming existing applications into a customised electronic patchwork.

Speed and ease of use were vital to the project since systems needed to be designed and amended quickly. The entire Standard system was up and running in a short space of time and is maintained by just two staff, something Mr Jorden does not believe would have been possible using conventional programming.

The market penetration of products such as Notes remains relatively low, and much of its present growth lies in current users who are expanding their groupware operations.

Notes has about half a million users worldwide but all in only 2,500 organisations. Senior executives from major banks, airlines and accountancy practices are among them, though you may be stretching a casual acquaintance too far to expect any to talk about it on the train home tonight.

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Radio's new home service

Nation is speaking
unto nation from
living rooms

When Quentin Howard broadcasts his classical music quiz on Classic FM on Saturday nights, he does it from the living-room of his home near Devizes, Wiltshire. And when Jonathan Dimbleby talks to listeners on Any Answers on Radio 4, he does not shift from his country home near Bristol.

Both are linked to studios in London by digital communications, giving them all the control that they would have in the studio but eliminating the tiresome journeys in unsocial hours that used to be the penalty of live broadcasting.

Until recently, this trick of technology would have involved sending an outside broadcast crew to install a pair of dedicated landlines between the house and the studio. The cost was huge, the sound quality mediocre and the reliability poor. Now, digital technology, as used in compact discs and computers, has solved the quality and reliability problems. Given links of the right type, sound quality can be as good at one end of the line as the other.

The cost has been slashed by computer control, allowing either the equipment in the broadcaster's home to be controlled from the studio, or the broadcaster to control the studio from home.

Mr Dimbleby, being the anchorman of one of radio's most prestigious current affairs programmes, got top-flight equipment at his house. A room has been soundproofed and a dedicated fibre optic link connects him with Broadcasting House. Incoming calls go to the London exchange and are fed to him in one ear of his headset with the producer talking on the other. The arrangement is said to cost the BBC around £20,000 a year.

Mr Howard, however, is not just a broadcaster but is also technical director of Classic FM and a self-confessed technofreak. Working within the tight budgets of commercial radio, he had to look for a lower cost way of linking himself to the studio. He had a strong motive: his show, *Six of the Best*, does not finish until midnight, a horrible time to start a three-hour drive home.

The solution proved to be BT's digital



Quentin Howard runs his Classic FM quiz from his home in Wiltshire

phone service. Integrated Digital Services Network, or ISDN. Getting ISDN installed is just like getting on the analogue phone network, except that two lines are the minimum and the cost is much higher — the installation cost is £400 plus the cost of a codec device for translating analogue waveforms to digital binary codes. Once installed, calls cost just the same as for analogue. Mr Howard estimates that the cost of the link per show is £8.

To get the CD quality required by Classic FM, Mr Howard needed two ISDN lines, giving four channels. Two are used for the stereo sound, one for talking to the London studio, and one for controlling the extra CD and tape players in the studio if Mr Howard has not got the required track at home.

"I have a complete studio in my living

room, with a small mixer, a couple of CD players and a digital audio tape player," he says. The whole outfit costs only a few thousand pounds. The digital signal is compressed by a factor of two to one, so that it will fit down the ISDN line. Mr Howard is delighted with the quality of the link. "We could not detect any degradation even if one line drops out, and we could still broadcast even if three lines went down."

He is delighted to stay at home on Saturday nights. "My wife is pregnant," he explains. But his system's very mobility may yet take him away. "Someone phoned me the other day and asked if I would broadcast from a cruise liner in the Caribbean. I will have to think about it."

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Play as you earn is not as innocent as it seems: viruses may be lurking

When computers first came into offices, they were heralded as tools to increase productivity. But as office workers have become more familiar with the technology, some use the equipment to play hi-tech games — few big networks do not have a game loaded somewhere in the system.

Games playing, or even just toying with business software, could be wasting a lot of company time. User-friendly aids, such as Windows software, help work but can also be more fun to play around with than old-style text-based software.

For employers, time-wasting is not the only problem. Games brought into businesses are often pirate copies, carrying a risk of introducing viruses and damage to a computer network.

One bootlegged version of a game called Larry was riddled with a virus which, when a player achieved top score,

Coming soon to a screen near you



would issue congratulations while wiping out the contents of the hard disc.

Using Windows makes it easier to play, say, a football game, with a spreadsheet or standard letter easily available to be put on-screen if a manager is seen approaching. Windows includes its own

games, Minesweeper and a card game.

Shell is just one of several large companies that has stripped down the versions of Windows it runs, to the bare minimum. "Staff could install the full software, but it is against the rules," says Jan van Heijningen, information

and computing services manager.

Siemens-Nixdorf leaves the decision to managers: most prefer staff not to play games during office hours. At ICI, where Windows is still relatively new, the company is "happy to leave games installed" because it considers them useful for educating people in using software. Eric Marshall, of ICI, however, says: "We have strict policies to forbid copying and introducing games software from outside the company."

Multimedia, mixing sound, graphics and video — will allow more complex games. The thought of key staff watching *Neighbours* on one computer window and playing a game on another while running a spreadsheet and holding a private video-phone call may fill employers with horror. It's coming to a desktop near you soon.

FRANK BOOTY

Revenue taxes resources of contractors

When is a freelance worker an employee?

David Guest reports on a conflict between the taxman and the IT industry

The life of the computer freelancer, sometimes able to collect weekly fees of £1,000 or more is often envied by many staffers, holding down a job on a smaller salary. But computer contractors do not have everything their own way, especially when it comes to their treatment by the taxman.

In some cases, they fall foul of measures intended to curtail abuses of executive perks; in others, the Inland Revenue seems motivated by institutionalised wariness of the self-employed.

For example, the tax rules on the provision of accommodation — applied to penthouses and country homes for senior executives, for instance — are applied with equal rigour to computer contractors who find themselves working away from home for lengthy periods. They have to rent accommodation but can be prevented from claiming the cost as a business expense.

Mike Cullen, the chairman of the Independent Computer Contractors (ICC) group, says: "The 1988

Finance Act stated that a director would be taxed on any accommodation. The legislation was aimed at fat-cats, not at individual contractors living away from home week by week. As is so often the case in these matters, the ramifications of this legislation were not considered at the time. This has hit individuals who are forced to work away from their home with a quite unjustifiable tax bill.

"We have proposed that the rates allowed by the Inland Revenue for their own lodging allowances would be a good place to start. In addition, the cost of the journey to and from the accommodation at the beginning and end of the week should be an allowable expense."

Having tax and national insurance deducted at source is another long-term grievance of some self-employed contractors. Where they are placed in work through an agency and the contract is tripartite, the issue does not arise.

But a sole trader finding work through his or her own efforts is vulnerable. It may be argued that



Mike Cullen says that tax legislation aimed at "fat-cats" has hit contractors having to work away from home for long periods

the tax and NI can be recovered when the year-end accounts and assessments are prepared, but life is rarely so simple.

First, a contractor treated as an employee for tax purposes faces a number of losses but not the same

gains as staff. There is no paid holiday entitlement, no paid sick leave, no employers' pension contribution, none of the benefits of full-time employment even though, for tax purposes, that is how the contractor is viewed.

At the same time, the Inland Revenue is apt to take a sledgehammer to allowable expenses, because the contractor appears to be in full-time employment. The Inland Revenue will, however, listen to arguments to the contrary. Last month, saw an

important judgment in the Court of Appeal on this subject. Ian Lorimer, a film industry vision mixer, worked for different companies on separate assignments. The Inland Revenue argued that he should be treated as an employee

and taxed under pay as you earn (PAYE) regulations. But the court confirmed he was self-employed.

Loughlin Hickey, a tax partner at the consultancy KPMG, says, in reference to the accommodation allowance issue: "Computer people are already under attack on peripatetic working. What the Hall v Lorimer case shows is that once the Inland Revenue looks at a sector, like the film industry or computing, it focuses on the whole sector."

The question of national insurance is another source of anxiety and discontent. To avoid NI payments, the ICC notes: "Some accountants are still advising contractors to pay very low salaries (to themselves from their own companies) and take the money in the form of regular dividends."

The social security department is investigating the loophole and will almost certainly move to close it. There is a good chance that ill-considered or hasty legislation could have an adverse effect on the vast majority of contractors who do not abuse the system."

Mr Hickey says: "It may be NI-efficient but it's not tax-efficient to pay on dividends. The danger is not from the DSS, but that the corporation tax inspector will say that previously paid salary was actually a dividend."

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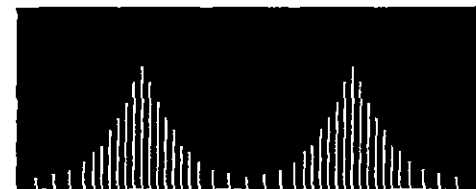
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POP page 38
Caitlin Moran puts in
a plea for a sharp
new alternative to
boring old Radio 1

ARTS

ROCK page 39
Bat out of hell is back in
business: born-again
superstar Meat Loaf
talks tough to The Times



Cannon to right of them, cannon to left of them: the staging of Tchaikovsky's 1812, with Plácido Domingo conducting, at Covent Garden's Winter Gala on Wednesday night

Big guns boost the Garden

The Royal Opera House's gala, televised live on Wednesday, raised half a million pounds for Covent Garden. John Higgins reports

Galas are now about making money. When the curtain fell at 10.30pm on Wednesday's celebrations the Covent Garden Trust should have been richer by upwards of £500,000. Seats close to the royal party, led by Prince Charles and the Duchess of Kent, cost £1,750, although supper and a few drinks were thrown in. Those prepared to perch under the eaves at the top of the house could have got in for a tinner, but £450 and more was required for the comfort of the stalls.

But let nobody think that half a million has been knocked off the Royal Opera House's current deficit of seven times that amount. Proceeds from galas (and this season there is only one) are budgeted in advance into the annual finances. Without galas the debt would simply be worse.

Those in the house, and the rest of the country watching live on BBC2, got a substantial if generally sombre evening. Most galas are a potpourri of party pieces, but for once Covent Garden decided to hang the items on a thread called Tchaikovsky, who

died a hundred years and a month ago. At times he was lost from sight and sound, especially in the second half. But he framed the evening and his garlanded face peered at the audience from the stage.

Tchaikovsky's strength is that he can bring both opera and ballet companies together in a way no other composer commands. His drawback is that his best music for the voice tends to be the melancholic.

There was an attempt to get around this by opening with "The Dance of the Comedians" from *The Snow Maiden* — not to be confused with Rimsky's opera on the same story. But it is not a strong enough piece to start an evening of this weight.

In the following grand pas de deux from *The Nutcracker* Leanne Benjamin and Tetsuya Kumakawa suffered a double defeat. White costumes against a vivid pink backdrop made them look like a couple of dancing sugared almonds, while on

television Brian Large's cameras had not yet got the measure of the stage.

It needed Pasha Burchuladze in King René's aria from *Iolanta* to give the evening ballast — few carry more vocal ballast than he does — and Balanchine's *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, dazzlingly danced by Dorey Russell and Zoltan Solymosi, to give it zest.

The visiting artistic dignitaries were Plácido Domingo and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. Surrounded by Russian singers, Domingo gallantly stuck to Tchaikovsky, even though it involved having music stand and score on stage. "Net, tolko tot", otherwise known as "None but the lonely heart", is Tchaikovsky's grave and Victorian.

Fortunately Lenny's aria followed after the interval and found Domingo, once over a flustered start, in impassioned voice. Early he had

taken up the conductor's baton for a rumbustious 1812, supplemented not only by the usual cannon but by dancers representing a Russian family escaping Napoleon's tyranny. A bit of over-gilding.

Dame Kiri's contribution was more modest. Tchaikovsky is not one of her composers, so she sang a Rachmaninov vocalise dreamily and sweetly. Near the close she swept with gusto through Musetta's Waltz Song from *Bohème*, a last minute switch from the advertised *Fledermaus* csardas. It was not exactly Russian, but this was a Winter Gala and Christmas Eve is not far off.

Earlier Sylvie Guillem, too, rebelled against things Russian by choosing a pas de deux from the recently seen *Herman Scherzmann*. Both musically and balletically it looked as though an under-dressed stranger had dropped in at a lively banquet.

The noblest singing came from

Dimitri Hvorostovsky. His interpretation of Prince Yevlsey's declaration of devotion to Lisa from *The Queen of Spades* showed just what presence and power the young Siberian baritone now commands. Equally impressive was the swagger he gave to the Venetian Merchant's song in praise of his native city from Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sadko*.

By using a minimum of props John Cox kept things moving at a speed unusual in galas. The three conductors nipped in and out of the pit with alacrity and it was a pleasure to have Sir Edward Downes back among them, well supported by Barry Wordsworth and Stephen Barlow, plus that contribution from Domingo.

On air James Naughtie, moonlighting from Radio 4's *World at One* was a confidential presenter, excellently coached in his Russian. Covent Garden's bonus, apart from that tinkle in the coffers, was three hours of prime time on television, including an interval plug for the Birmingham Royal Ballet. The principal regret must be that, chorus apart, not a British singer was in earshot.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Nip and tuck with the stars

According to the *Concise Oxford*, silicone is "one of many polymeric organic compounds of silicon with high resistance to cold, heat, water and the passage of electricity". According to Hollywood, a silicone implant is one of many operational necessities if your average beauty queen out of Des Moines is to get on the road to fame and acquire a high resistance to obscurity, poverty, rejection and the passage of time.

At what price we discovered last night, in *Hollywood Women* (ITV), the start of a four-part series which promises to be one of the most fascinating, and frightening, programmes of the year. Cleverly, it began by giving an entirely different impression: for 15 minutes I thought I had fallen asleep and woken up in a *Playboy* distribution warehouse.

There was cleavage everywhere. It heaved from scraps of material that the owners could surely have afforded to have made into a dress, or perhaps they were getting by on hand-me-downs donated by smaller sisters. Much smaller sisters.

Some of this cleavage wobbled and some of it did not. Ah ha! That which did not wobble belonged to people who had had their breasts "done" because, one actress said, "you get more work if your breasts don't wobble when you walk". The failure of Rada to place this maxim above its portals explains the collapse of the British film industry.

Nothing attached to the women in this programme was going to collapse if their surgeons had anything to do with it. Breasts, faces, thighs, necks and even eyes could all be stretched, shaped, tucked and tilted by surgeons such as the one comedienne Phyllis Diller described as being "so good he turned Michael Jackson into a white girl".

Why do these women do it? In part because men run Hollywood, a factor to be explored later in the series. Also, men take women to the movies so men are at both ends of the money

machine, which pumps out stereotypes. But these are screen stereotypes. Surely real men prefer real women, not plastic ones. You leave the electric blanket on, your wife melts (however resistant to heat).

The trend is pernicious. In Hollywood, you do not have to be an actress to feel the need to resemble one. As Bo Derek pointed out, you go down to the supermarket and the check-out girl has had her face lifted.

The saddest thing, though, is that many of the women who have been under the knife think they look great but in fact look absolutely ghastly. You could play ping-pong on their cheeks. They smile through adversity mainly because their lips are incapable of manifesting any other emotion. Their skin resembles something that might shortly erupt (and sometimes does) — one woman needed 18 operations to quell the volcano that silicon had made of her face.

I had just reached the conclusion that some of the screen captions were wrong (surely "erotic actress" should have read "idiotic actress") when it happened. We had been listening to a woman describing what her surgeon was going to do to her when the operating theatre door opened and in we went.

To see... one side of the woman's face being lifted. Lifted off, that is. This was stunning: a facelift is just that. They lift your face, slice some of it off and then put it back. The woman said she had heard that they even remove your ears, but didn't ask because she would rather not know. Me too.

I had thought I was watching a bunch of women, some sensible, some silly, some misled, some grateful for that which had been done to them. But the reality was this grim spectacle, the bloody dissection of their very faces. All men can understand why, but it is about time more of us cried: please, not for me.

PETER BARNARD

THEATRE: Reflections of a fractured and fractious continent

Rootless in Europe

Heartstrings
Riverside Studios

NEARLY two years ago, Stephen Daldry directed Talking Pictures in what was, if you will forgive the contradiction, a hilarious mime-show. *Europeans* showed delegates from some unnamed country in the newly liberated East on a visit to a well-meant conference in Strasbourg. The effect was of demented gerbils running amok in someone's superposh bathroom; but there was a sombre, ominous side to the proceedings, too. The piece ended, as I recall, with nationalist songs, the sound of tanks, and a glimpse of armoured cars. Europe had broken up and was in danger of breaking down.

Talking Pictures' latest attempt to "explore aspects of the new European state", as the company's programme puts it, continues where that denouement left off. As befits a piece which coincides with the deepening chaos in the former Yugoslavia, *Heartstrings* is a lot less fun than *Europeans*. The subjects are as old as civilisation, but also as fresh as the fires that have consumed immigrant hostels in Germany this year: the loss of roots, and the attempt, always dodgy, to relocate alien plants in new soil.

The tone is set in the first of 80 minutes' worth of short, exemplary scenes. A Balkan father forces his anglicised son to join him in a gentle folksong, only to end up folksonging him for his incompetence. A bit later, the same man congratulates his wife on the ethnic mat she has woven, then hammers her for putting



Misunderstandings but no menace: Mladen Vasary and Analia Perego in Talking Pictures' *Heartstrings*

his shoes in the wrong place. An awkward young man, sent to England from some unspecified war-zone, ends up yelling in rage at the equally awkward daughter of his father's old friend. The evening is packed with partings, reconciliations, misunderstandings, frustrations. Such is our Europe: or so Sandra Mladenovitch's production claims.

The Talking Pictures company — Clarissa Malheiros, Analia Perego, Joy Merriman, Jonny Potter, Mladen Vasary — is as multinational as the theme demands and pretty talented too. They have no trouble evoking genial yet threatening politicians, troubled lovers and, in a scene whose relevance is not obvious, the wrangling residents of an English twilight home. It

seems almost ungrateful to complain that the piece has little of the originality of *Europeans*.

But something more important is also missing. The narrator, a woman draped from head to toe in black, is clearly meant to supply it. But it is not enough to chant lines like "I am the darkness, the darkness in the abyss, the eternal darkness that no light could ever brighten". We must be made to feel the fear and the foreboding that is abroad and, these days, not so far abroad. For all its merits, the evening lacks gravity and the sense of danger without which, sad to say, contemporary Europe is not Europe at all.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

ARTS BRIEFING

Stevenson on track

CELEBRATIONS to mark the centenary next year of the death of Robert Louis Stevenson have begun early. On Tuesday this week British Rail's Intercity named a new Class 91 high-speed locomotive "The Robert Louis Stevenson" in a ceremony attended by guests from Western Samoa, where the Edinburgh-born novelist is buried. Also present were directors of the Stevenson Foundation, which is restoring Vailima, the writer's home in Samoa, where he is still revered as "Tusitila, Teller of Tales".

THE Royal Ballet is sending out its own small-scale touring group in February, called "Dance Bites". About 20 dancers will perform a programme of Ashton's *Monotones*, Forsythe's *Herman Scherzmann*, and three new works — by Ashley Page, Matthew Hart and William Tuckett. The Leicester Haymarket, Cambridge Corn Exchange and Blackpool Grand are the chosen theatres.

There are two drawbacks to what would otherwise be a welcome innovation. The full ballet company from Covent Garden is no longer to undertake any performances in the British regions (where it used to play in much larger theatres for longer periods) because costs are prohibitive. And from early February the other dancers will simply rehearse in London, leaving the Royal Opera House without any ballet for almost six weeks.

POLESKA!

A CELEBRATION OF POLISH CULTURE ON BBC RADIO 3

NOVEMBER 1993

<p>Friday 3rd December 7.30PM A SENSE OF TIME AND PLACE Lyn Davies is your guide to an evening of music and features from Southern Poland, beginning in the old capital, Cracow and taking in Auschwitz and the beautiful Tatra mountains. Followed at 11.00pm by Chopin Nocturnes played by Kathryn Stott.</p> <p>11.30PM MIDNIGHT OIL Sarah Walker presents Zygmunt Krauze's response to the declaration of martial law in December 1981, <i>Tableau Vivant</i>; Wojciech Kilar's near-anarchic symphonic poem <i>Krzysztof</i>; and Bohuslav Schaeffer's electronic tape <i>Symphony</i>.</p> <p>Saturday 4th December 1.05PM TABLE TALK Wigilia. The last programme in the season joins a Warsaw family as they make their preparations for the Christmas festivities.</p>	<p>1.20PM CHOPIN A mixed programme of pieces featuring Caroline Palmer (piano).</p> <p>5.45PM MUSIC MATTERS Ivan Hewett discusses Chopin's mazurkas and the political significance of the Chopin Piano Competition.</p> <p>10.40PM A COUNTRY CHILD Marek Borchert visits Chopin's birthplace at Zelazowa Wola.</p> <p>Sunday 5th December 7.30PM MARRIAGE BLANC Tadeusz Rozewicz, one of Poland's foremost poets and playwrights, explores the pressures of adolescence in a turn-of-the-century household. Featuring Jane Hazlittgrove and Martine Brown.</p> <p>9.10PM MUSIC IN OUR TIME Alwynne Pritchard introduces music from 80th Birthday concert for Witold Lutoslawski given by the London Sinfonietta and conducted by the composer.</p>	<p>11.00PM BBC INVITATION CONCERT The BBC Singers conducted by Bo Holten with the Penderick Quartet perform a programme which includes Penderick, Szymanowski and Gorecki.</p> <p>Monday 6th December 7.30PM EBU CONCERT A special live concert from the Concert Hall of Polish Radio to mark the 60th birthday of Henryk Gorecki. Featuring Zofia Kilanowicz (soprano) and Adam Kruszyński (baritone).</p> <p>9.10PM DARK ANGEL A profile of Ewa Demarczyk, the legendary Polish singer whose career spans more than 30 years.</p> <p>10.10PM CHOPIN The last programme in the Polish season features a performance of <i>Twelve Etudes</i>, Op 25 with Piers Lane (piano).</p>
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THE MUSIC OF POLAND'S GREATEST COMPOSER CHOPIN WILL BE BROADCAST EVERY DAY OF THE SEASON.

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POP ON FRIDAY: Good times, bad times with Marvin Lee Aday ... gangstas take the rap ... George Michael does his bit

Another bad spell at the top

For a born-again superstar, Meat Loaf was acting pretty miffed when he met David Sinclair. Well, so would you be if people kept getting your name wrong

Two hours late, and clearly a man under pressure, Meat Loaf trudges into an upmarket London hotel room. "I don't drink, but I'm about ready to get drunk," he says wearily. Ripping open a packet of yoghurt banana chips instead, he knocks back a fistful, and reels off a catalogue of woes. Still uppermost in his mind is the theft of his briefcase at Charles de Gaulle airport the night before. Along with his passport, glasses, spare glasses, DAT recordings, family photographs, letters, money and credit cards (yes, all in the name of Meat Loaf), the thieves ran off with a piece of Meat's dignity. "I feel violated. I'm very depressed about it."

After impromptu visits to an optician and the American embassy to pick up a duplicate passport, he duly arrived at a television studio to record a slot on the *Des O'Connor Show*. Unfortunately the smoke machine used for his sequence triggered off an asthma attack, a condition from which Meat has suffered since childhood. "I was coughing and spluttering. Couldn't see. Lost my voice."

Accident-prone he may be, but to say that Meat is currently in demand would be an understatement. The larger-than-life singer who first came to prominence in the late 1970s with the mock-gothic melodrama, *Bat Out Of Hell*, and then faded to the point where he had no recording contract in Britain from 1987 to 1989, has made one of the most spectacular comebacks in pop music memory.

The original *Bat Out Of Hell*, which was conceived, written and produced by Jim Steinman, has sold in the region of 25 million copies. Now, having reunited with Steinman to record a sequel — *Bat Out Of Hell II — Back Into Hell*, released in September — Meat has unleashed a phenomenon that looks set to outstrip even its predecessor.

His single "I Would Do Anything For Love (But I Won't Do That)" has been No 1 simultaneously in Britain and America for the past five weeks. Not only has the album topped the charts in 16 countries (including America), it has already demonstrated remarkable staying power, returning to the UK No 1 slot on several occasions.

This is the album Arista, Meat's former record company, declined to finance on the grounds that it would be too expensive to make and market. That was in 1987. So Meat fulfilled his contractual obligations by supplying them with the undeniably cheap *Live At Wembley* (it peaked at No 60) and promptly left the company.

Meat is careful not to crow about all this, now that he is once again the man on top. A garrulous, Falstaffian character whose booming voice resonates with a distinctive Texan twang, he balances strident self-belief with an engaging readiness to see the humorous side of things.

For much of his life he had no choice. Born Marvin Lee Aday in Dallas, Texas, he was ruthlessly



After having his passport, glasses, spare glasses, DAT recordings, family photographs, letters, money and credit cards pinched, Meat Loaf smiles for the camera

teased as a schoolboy and nicknamed Meat Loaf because of his size and weight. He left home at the age of 15, after his mother died of cancer and his father — "a salesman who could sell four tyres to a guy who didn't own a car" — attacked him with a butcher's knife. "That incident occurred the day after my mother's funeral. I left home fast, with nothing but a pair of sweatpants, a T-shirt and a pair of tennis shoes."

Moving to Los Angeles, he played in various bands, eventually releasing an unsuccessful album called *Stoney And Meat Loaf* in 1970. At the same time he developed a parallel career as an actor, winning a part in the Los Angeles production of *Hair*, appearing in the cult film *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and, more recently, featuring in films such as *Wayne's World* and *Leap Of Faith*.

But until now, the rest of his life's achievements have all paled into

insignificance compared to the success of *Bat I*. Like others who have tasted the rich fruit of such rapid and heady success, Meat did not find it easy to digest. He suffered a nervous breakdown and was (incredibly) declared bankrupt, after a protracted legal dispute with his former manager.

Perhaps surprisingly, his marriage, now in its 18th year, survived. But by the time his affairs finally returned to some semblance of order, in about 1985, his commercial stock was in steep decline. However, he expresses no rancour or regrets about his years in the wilderness, declaring himself happier then than when he was trying to cope with the first flush of superstardom.

What does get his goat are the nagging inaccuracies in the stories which have become part and parcel of the Meat Loaf folklore. He is keen to scotch any idea that he and

Jim Steinman fell out, even though they ended up on opposite sides of the fence in the legal dispute involving their former manager. He scoffs at press estimates of the production costs of the video for "I Would Do Anything ..." (they range from \$1 million to \$2 million), and insists that the true figure is no more than \$500,000.

He has a mental block about spelling, and declares himself quite unable to write as a result of it. And yet he cannot abide seeing his name misrepresented as Meatloaf, a simple if surprisingly common mistake. But he reserves his most apologetic outburst for the constant misquoting of his age, which is frequently put at 46 and even 48 in a recent, high profile, magazine article.

"Forty-eight years old, no kidding!" he raves, arms whirling, face reddening. "I nearly died. I'm having my passport photocopied as we speak. I'm going to fax it to him."

I was born in 1951. I'm 42, for Christ's sake."

He is genuinely put out, but there is an undercurrent of humour in his theatrical display of annoyance. It's all part of the performance which is Meat's whole life. "When I go on stage I go to the Zone," he later confides. "My wife calls it going to Loafdom. I give it up. I give it all. For two hours and 42 minutes, there is nothing, absolutely nothing that is not given to that audience. Nothing is left. I'm totally exposed. I never think. It's all intuition. The minute you stop to think, you're dead. Anytime I work — in the studio, even now, doing this interview — I go to the Zone."

"Anyway I think that's enough for you," he says briskly, evidently making a rapid return from the Zone. As he gets up to leave the room, he spots a CD in my case. Called *Trick Or Treat*, it is a live radio recording of one of his recent New York shows, broadcast on

Halloween weekend, and now pressed up as a promotional item by his American record company MCA. He looks at the artwork on the disc in disbelief. They've printed his name as Meatloaf.

He disappears into the room opposite to take a phone-call. Pretty soon you can hear him yammering down the line: "... Lost my case ... sprayed nerve gas at me in the studio ... my own record company ... can you believe it? ... Got my name wrong on the disc ..."

● Meat Loaf's British tour begins at Cardiff International Arena (0222 234500) tomorrow 8 Dec 17: SECC, Glasgow (041 248 3000) Dec 6; Whitley Bay Ice Rink (091 252 6340) Dec 7; Sheffield Arena (0142 565 500) Dec 9; G-Mex, Manchester (061 824 3551) Dec 10; NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133) Dec 12; Wembley Arena (081-900 1234) Dec 13; Brighton Centre (0273 202881) Dec 15; BIC, Bournemouth (0202 292297) Dec 16; Point, Dublin (0103531 363633) Dec 18; Kings Hall, Belfast (0232 665232) Dec 20

SNOOP DOGGY DOGG

Doggystyle (Death Row / Interscope 6544-92279)

ICE CUBE

Lethal Injection

(Priority/4th & Broadway) SNOOP Doggy Dogg is the aggressive young newcomer to the gangsta-rap herd. Ice Cube is the weathered old bull. Thanks to an accident of scheduling, their albums lock metaphorical horns this week, although both are pulling in much the same direction.

Dogg speaks in a characterful deep burr, redolent of Eric B's rapping partner Rakim. At 21 he has already featured prominently on his mentor Dr Dre's multi-million selling album *The Chronic*, and in rap circles *Doggystyle*, his solo debut, has been one of the most eagerly awaited releases of the year. Advance orders alone suggest it will almost certainly top the American charts next week.

It is the tough-talking Cube, however, who is the proven long runner. *Lethal Injection* is his fourth album, the previous three having each sold a million copies at least.

Although rappers don't go in for "dissing" (showing disrespect to) the competition any more, they are still a fiercely combative breed, and clearly no effort has been spared in the quest to locate the hardest 1970s funk grooves or the most loquaciously rebarbative lyrics. Both albums are thus heavily loaded with a sense of

NEW ALBUMS: Must we fling this filth at our pop kids?

Muthas of invention



Ice Cube (left) and Snoop Doggy Dogg look up rhymes for misogynist and misanthrope

menace conjured by the familiar witches' brew of repetitive obscenities, gross misogynist taunts, and persistent incitements to racial disharmony and violent confrontation.

In terms of sheer nastiness however, it is Cube who leads the field, by a short neck. The lethal injection of the title turns out to be a bullet in the back of the head, joltingly administered by the good Dr Cube to his unsuspecting "patient", a Mr White, during the opening track, "The Shot". On the equally enriching "Cave Bitch", Cube's message is that

he would never stoop to bed a "white cave bitch", because they are all she-devils in league with the Ku Klux Klan.

Dogg is generally less inclined to such crude espousals of racial purity; terminal violence is more his thing. "Six million ways to die: choose one," a voice barks at the start of "Serial Killer", while "Murder Was The Case" begins with the sounds of a gunfight, with Dogg as the victim: "My body temperature falls ... I stop breathin' / Damn, I see demons."

On both albums, the music is sparse, rhythmic and a lot more appealing than the philosophy it underpins. But are they a reflection of "real life"? Are they art? Or is it all a huge wind-up?

Although, with its snippets of dialogue and other sound effects, *Doggystyle* plays like a soundtrack in need of a *Shaft*-type film, in the case of Dogg himself fact and fantasy appear to be chillingly intertwined. A previously convicted drug dealer, he is currently charged with the shooting to death of an unarmed man in a Los Angeles park last August, an incident in which Dogg claims he was acting in self-



defence. The scowling Cube, on the other hand, is an astute businessman from a well-to-do background, who is both happily married and a devoted father.

But whatever their skills and motivations, neither rapper's approach is doing anything to advance a strand of music that, for all its popularity, has become intellectually and spiritually mired in a cycle of diminishing returns. What may once have been a shocking, alternative view from the underside of a sick society has turned into a predictably offensive, self-fulfilling litany of hate, pandering to the worst instincts of a market that is more interested in unpleasant, voyeuristic thrills than any serious consideration of contemporary social ills.

MORPHINE

Cure For Pain (Rykodisc RCD 10262)

A TRIO from Boston, Morphine wrest a unique sound from a line-up comprising saxophone, bass and drums. Led by singer Mark Sandman, who plays his specially constructed two-string bass with a slide, the band pro-

duces an extraordinary and engaging amalgam of blues, jazz and super-cool attitude.

Uncluttered by overdubs and governed by the trio's complete lack of regard for traditional notions of a "full" rock group sound, the music has a lovely, liquid feel, especially during the instrumental passages when Dana Colley's saxophone solos dive and swoop with effortless grace.

But it's tough and swampy too. Sandman has a deep, sensual voice which he winds around the melody of the title track, and there are undercurrents of hysteria in the hectic drum tango and tornado-twist swirls of feedback on "Thursday". The 13 quick tracks end with "Miles Davis' Funeral", a brief, haunting requiem of surpassing grace that melts into the mind like a soft, rich balm.

ROLLING STONES

Jump Back — The Best Of The Rolling Stones 71-93 (Virgin CDV 2726)

A ROUTINE recycling operation that mines 75 minutes' worth of gems from one of the deepest back catalogues in rock. *Jump Back* naturally boasts an embarrassment of riches, including "Start Me Up", "Brown Sugar", "Angie", "Tumbling Dice", "Miss You" and many others.

Few, if any, bands could muster a portfolio half as strong, and yet it includes nothing released prior to 1971, an eloquent rebuttal of the absurd theory that the Stones have been in decline since the end of the 1960s.

Although it duplicates much of the *Rawhide* compilation, released in 1984, all the tracks on *Jump Back* have been remastered, lending a surprisingly enhanced presence to the guitars, particularly on "Beast Of Burden", still the Stones' piece de resistance.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CONCERT

Ball in a good cause

Concert of Hope Wembley Arena

The complex lighting that heralded his arrival gently reiterated that this was, when all was said and sung, George Michael's show. Decked out in an elegantly tailored three-piece suit, Michael immediately launched into a magnificently focused "Father Figure", a throbbing version of Adamski's "Killer" and a hinged-at-the-hips reading of "Papa Was A Rolling Stone".

The high point of his neatly truncated live set was a heavily gossiped "One Last Try" for which he was joined by a veritable choir of backing singers. It was a moving reminder of what a truly great singer he can be.

Alluding just once to his recent court case with his record company Sony (the Kray twins-type spectacles he has been affecting for his court appearances were reassuringly absent), Michael explained with a sly smile that he had been "a bit busy lately", and segued cleverly into the pertinent and Aids-appropriate "Freedom".

As the final bars of "Every-thing She Wants" — surely Wham's finest hour — reverberated around the Wembley barn, the Princess clapped along with the throng. This was her sort of gig. The message had been received loud and clear, and the funds were in the coffers.

ADRIAN DEEVOY

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TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 *Bat Out Of Hell II — Back Into Hell* Meat Loaf (Virgin)
- 2 *So Far So Good* Bryan Adams (A&M)
- 3 *Both Sides* Phil Collins (Virgin)
- 4 *Duets* Elton John (Rocket)
- 5 *The One Thing* Michael Bolton (Columbia)
- 6 *Everything Changes* Take That (RCA)
- 7 *One Woman — The Ultimate Collection* Diana Ross (EMI)
- 8 *The Spaghetti Incident?* Guns N' Roses (Geffen)
- 9 *Muscle Box* Mariah Carey (Columbia)
- 10 *No Closer* Oliva Carroll (A&M)

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DELICIOUS CHRISTMAS TREAT

MOTORING

Budget failed to figure out 'green' diesel

Kevin Eason on why there has never been a better time to buy an economical car

You have been warned. There is no point in pulling the duvet over your ears this morning and pretending it will all get better soon.

The Chancellor is making no bones about the fact that he is going to slap tax on petrol and diesel until it hurts. ... a lot. This week's Budget's 13.6p per gallon increase is just the start of the misery, because Kenneth Clarke has told us all well in advance that petrol and diesel duties are set to rise by at least 5 per cent in real terms every year from now on.

That means the £3 gallon is on its way sooner rather than later. The government means to drive motorists off the road in its quest to cut pollution. The sales representative huddling down the motorway this morning may not be worried — his company pays for a twice-weekly tank of unleaded — but it could be of great importance to thousands of families around Britain.

The motoring organisations, however, say that the increased duties will do nothing to reduce travel by car. After all, if the average family's motoring week is locked into a pattern of school runs, shopping and travel to work, there is probably little they can do unless there is a substantial improvement in public transport. The only other way to save the family purse from immolation is to find a more economical car.

For those who sigh and study the empty cheque book, there is consolation news. What ever the effects of the Budget, this is the best time for many years to buy a car. Dealers are falling over themselves to "get rid of the metal", thanks to the absurd marketing policies of the manufacturers.

The system works like this: dealers are given a target, for example to sell 50 cars in a month. When they achieve it, they win a bonus of perhaps £300 a car. Unfortunately, with the market still weak, dealers often register cars as showroom demonstrators or as their own fleet cars, just to get the bonuses.

In August there was a flood of new car registrations — 50,000 of them — which showed as sales. In fact, the

cars had no customers to go to. They are now turning up on forecourts as "used" models or demonstrators, some with as few as 1,000 miles on the clock. Some manufacturers are offering dealers bonuses of up to £1,000 a car just to keep the metal moving. That means dealers can afford to sell at a loss, recovering their deficit with the manufacturer's bonus.

The bizarre game means that there are plenty of good deals around for the motorist. In the West Midlands, at the Coventry Mazda showroom, an L-registered Mazda 626 1.8i GLX was advertised as used for £13,995 — £255 below the list price of the new car. The salesman was anxious to offer an attractive trade-in

The £3 gallon is on its way, as motorists are driven off the road in the quest to cut pollution

deal or discuss discounts to lower the price still further. The Charles Sawyer dealership in Rugby, Warwickshire, advertised a Suzuki Vitara with delivery mileage only, but listed it as a used car. The salesman said the car was registered in August as a demonstrator but had never been used. It was on sale at £13,295 — more than £700 cheaper than the list price for the same model new.

Not far away, the Blue Boar garage in Rugby was selling L-registered Cavaliers for a cancelled fleet order with savings worth between £1,315 and £1,745 on the list price.

Whites, the Surrey-based Audi dealer, last week advertised 11 L-registered cars for sale. One Audi 2.0E estate, including alloy wheels and CD player, was on sale at £16,995 — more than £900 lower than the list price.

They are among dozens of examples of ready-made good

deals for the alert. For those searching for the most economical car, the only question remaining is what to buy.

The Citroën AX has won all the prizes as the cheapest car to run in Britain. That is mainly because of its parsimonious fuel consumption in almost any variant. The 10E is quite capable of turning in 54 miles to the gallon of unleaded on a touring run, but the 1.4-litre diesel can return 59 miles to the gallon.

Leasecontracts, the fleet leasing company, says that the AX Debut, the cheapest car in the range, is also the cheapest car to run: assessed on more than 12,000 miles annually for three years with 48mpg and the £5,895 buying price, the running cost worked out at 24.4p per mile.

Those statistics are probably not much good to the family of five needing a mid-range saloon. However, the perception that bigger engines are always uneconomical is sometimes misplaced. According to Leasecontracts, a Rover 216 can return 32mpg but the Ford Mondeo 2.0i gives 33.3mpg on a touring average.

Clearly, the bigger the car, the more fuel it uses, but sometimes a less powerful engine is too small to pull along the weight of the body shell and chassis. The advice must be to check the fuel consumption statistics.

The rule that diesels are more economical is undisputed. Unfortunately, Mr Clarke, though purportedly green-conscious, seems to have missed the point. If he wants to cut carbon dioxide emissions, as he says, the answer is to use less fuel. That means burning diesel. But at the pumps, diesel is now about 4p per gallon more expensive than unleaded petrol, wiping out diesel engines' cost advantage.

A Peugeot 405 1.8i, for example, can offer about 37mpg of unleaded on a touring average, but the diesel does 40mpg better. That should add up to a straight cash saving, but it does not. Ten gallons of diesel at present prices cost £24.05, while ten gallons of unleaded cost £23.59.

The men at the sharp end of car buying, the company fleet managers who purchase half of all new cars annually — about 800,000 this year — already have the calculators out and they are baffled. Some will still switch to diesel but others are now rifling through fuel consumption statistics, searching out the most economical cars.

What is clear is that through his Budget, Mr Clarke has sent one message to motorists: start cutting costs now, otherwise fuel bills are going to become crippling. Oh, and Happy Christmas.



Even 35mph test crashes, such as the one suffered by this Saab 900, can inflict G-forces on car passengers as great as on fighter pilots

Car makers put safety first

Europe's top car has safety built in from axle to airbag

When the crunch comes, it won't be performance or glamour that will save your life. The Ford Mondeo deserved this week's award of European Car of the Year. Ford is no doubt proud of the Mondeo's much-praised performance, which beat rivals such as the Mercedes Benz C-class and Citroën Xantia.

But there will be many drivers who will thank Ford for pressing the pedal down hard on the issue of safety. Ford used the Mondeo's launch this year to go for safety, building in a series of important features right from the start.

Safety has moved to the top of the agenda for car makers, temporarily sidelining the "green" issue and performance, once thought to be vital and trumpeted in every advert. Most cars now perform to within fractions of each other on fuel economy, acceleration and speed. That leaves most buyers only to worry about colour and styling.

But except for Volvo, until recently the manufacturers rarely addressed the question of how safe their car would be in a crash. Now Ford and companies such as Saab have turned safety into a virtue. This week, for example, Saab was excited by crash tests carried out in Germany which showed its new 900 model slightly better on impact than the Mercedes C-class. The tests, by Auto Motor und Sport, the leading German magazine, involved hurling the two cars at 35mph into a frontal impact slightly offset, to duplicate the effect of a road crash.

Both the Mercedes C-class and Saab 900 — presented as the "best in class" for safety —

fared extremely well, although the magazine concluded that the Saab suffered slightly less for structural damage, intrusion of the pedals and impact on the head and chest. The sobering report, however, showed that even at such a low speed, the G-forces exerted on the head of the driver dummy in the Saab was 59 — about 14 times more G-force than is

exerted on Damon Hill's head in a Formula One Grand Prix or on a fighter pilot.

Ford built in safety throughout the Mondeo, from the addition of side impact bars, now becoming popular on many models, all the way to the airbags, which are standard and not charged as an extra. There was nothing new in the technology of airbags,

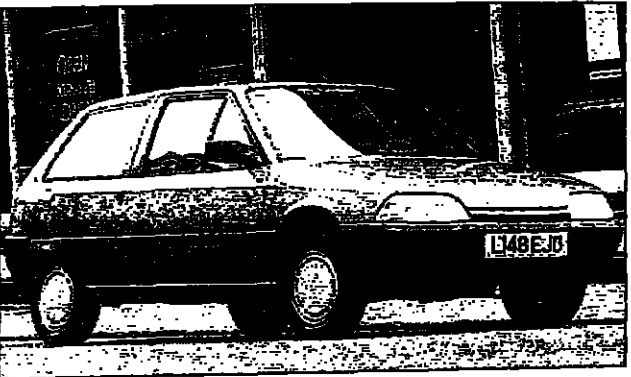
but Ford, having driven the programme through with the Mondeo, is now including airbags in its range of small cars, which means drivers are getting extra protection at virtually the same price.

Faced with financial losses in the United Kingdom over the past three years close to £1 billion, Ford has been needing good news to spearhead a resurgence. The Mondeo was launched with Ford losing sales in mid-range saloons and hatchbacks. With Vauxhall, Ford's main rivals,

enjoying a substantial revival with its Cavalier, the Mondeo had to be a success.

The Mondeo has sold 80,000 in the United Kingdom, 260,000 across Europe. It is now Britain's best-selling company car and headed the best sellers' list for September. In the voting, the Citroën Xantia was second, the Mercedes C-class third, the Vauxhall Corsa fourth, then the Renault Twingo and the Peugeot 306.

KEVIN EASON



Citroën AX: the Debut model costs 24.4p per mile to run

Square deal for Bentley

THERE is a little square almost in the heart of France that is forever England — in fact, now called the W.O. Bentley Square. The residents of Mulsanne have dedicated their square to Walter Owen Bentley to celebrate the famous drives by his cars in the Le Mans 24-hour race, which includes the high-speed drive down the long straight to Mulsanne that has helped make the race famous.

Genuine price
PRICES on parts for G-registered or older BMW cars have been fixed by the company. The company says owners wanted genuine parts but were worried by cost. The answer was to start a fixed price scheme for the whole of 1994. Prices range from £55 for a battery to £449 for a clutch for a pre-1990 7-series executive model.

Red letter day
LIKE Bob Geldof, Red Poling cannot use the title, but the retired Ford world chairman has been appointed Honorary Knight Commander of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. Mr Poling was

ROADWISE

honoured for his contribution to relations between Britain and the United States in his years as chairman of Ford of Europe. There is no "Sir" as a result of the knighthood but there is no doubt that "Arise, Sir Red" has a distinctive ring to it.

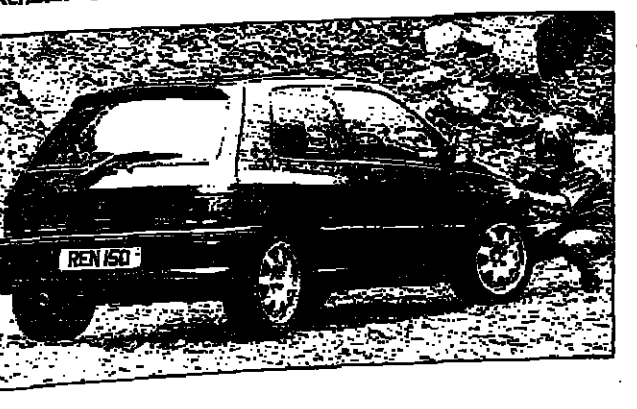
In Touche
ACCOUNTANTS Touche Ross worked through the night to get a Budget briefing ready for company car drivers using Vauxhalls. Vauxhall arranged for the firm to have a two-page synopsis ready for 14,000 fleet managers with easy-to-read tables on fuel costs and tax implications.

Racy Renault
IF IT goes half as well as its grand prix cousin, the new Renault Clio Williams (pic-

tured) should be a formidable piece of machinery. Producing 150bhp from a 2-litre engine, the Clio, which carries the Formula One team logo, sheds its "soft" image to become a 134mph speedster. Only 400 right-hand-drive cars will be built.

Out of condition
MOTORISTS are being warned to beware of garages saying that they can recondition engines. They may be doing a botched job which lands motorists with even more costly repairs, says the Federation of Engine Remanufacturers. Unfortunately, the federation represents only half the companies involved in engine reconditioning.

Police dash
A TWO-man team from the



Metropolitan Police Motor Club won the 5,500-mile drive from Paris to London over the Arctic. PC Keith Bryan and PC Stuart Hinks drove a British Telecom-sponsored Porsche 911 Carrera 4.

Cold comfort
DO NOT put anti-freeze in the car washer bottles this year, even to combat the worst weather. It could spoil paintwork and lead to an even more dismal winter driving season. Instead, choose a specialist washer product that will stop the bottle freezing when temperatures dip.

Five-star general
VAUXHALL-Opel, the General Motors brands for Europe, are now Europe's best sellers, according to latest figures for the first nine months of the year. The company overtook rivals such as Peugeot-Citroën, VW-Audi and Fiat to become the top company.

Opening offer
ALUMINIUM bonnets for the MGB and MGC, not available for the past 20 years, are now available from British Motor Heritage. The tiny company, based at Faringdon, Oxfordshire, which specialises in MG equipment from original tooling, says the bonnets cost £230 plus VAT.

PERFORMANCE CARS

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J16 DEC 2000 cc. 16v. 200hp. 0-60 in 6.5 sec. 110mph. 2000 cc. 16v. 150hp. 0-60 in 7.5 sec. 100mph.

J44 RJC 2000 cc. 16v. 200hp. 0-60 in 6.5 sec. 110mph. 2000 cc. 16v. 150hp. 0-60 in 7.5 sec. 100mph.

J22 RJC 2000 cc. 16v. 200hp. 0-60 in 6.5 sec. 110mph. 2000 cc. 16v. 150hp. 0-60 in 7.5 sec. 100mph.

19 KW 2000 cc. 16v. 200hp. 0-60 in 6.5 sec. 110mph. 2000 cc. 16v. 150hp. 0-60 in 7.5 sec. 100mph.

LEP 4 2000 cc. 16v. 200hp. 0-60 in 6.5 sec. 110mph. 2000 cc. 16v. 150hp. 0-60 in 7.5 sec. 100mph.

MBW 1 2000 cc. 16v. 200hp. 0-60 in 6.5 sec. 110mph. 2000 cc. 16v. 150hp. 0-60 in 7.5 sec. 100mph.

11 RJ 2000 cc. 16v. 200hp. 0-60 in 6.5 sec. 110mph. 2000 cc. 16v. 150hp. 0-60 in 7.5 sec. 100mph.

RON 54 2000 cc. 16v. 200hp. 0-60 in 6.5 sec. 110mph. 2000 cc. 16v. 150hp. 0-60 in 7.5 sec. 100mph.

SBO 8 2000 cc. 16v. 200hp. 0-60 in 6.5 sec. 110mph. 2000 cc. 16v. 150hp. 0-60 in 7.5 sec. 100mph.

REGISTRATION NO'S. CND MEMBERS

2500 CC 2000 cc. 16v. 200hp. 0-60 in 6.5 sec. 110mph. 2000 cc. 16v. 150hp. 0-60 in 7.5 sec. 100mph.

E1 ENA 2000 cc. 16v. 200hp. 0-60 in 6.5 sec. 110mph. 2000 cc. 16v. 150hp. 0-60 in 7.5 sec. 100mph.

FH 77 2000 cc. 16v. 200hp. 0-60 in 6.5 sec. 110mph. 2000 cc. 16v. 150hp. 0-60 in 7.5 sec. 100mph.

5 GE 2000 cc. 16v. 200hp. 0-60 in 6.5 sec. 110mph. 2000 cc. 16v. 150hp. 0-60 in 7.5 sec. 100mph.

42 HAB 2000 cc. 16v. 200hp. 0-60 in 6.5 sec. 110mph. 2000 cc. 16v. 150hp. 0-60 in 7.5 sec. 100mph.

INSIGNIA REGISTRATIONS

1000 cc. 100hp. 0-60 in 10 sec. 80mph. 1000 cc. 100hp. 0-60 in 10 sec. 80mph.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

1000 cc. 100hp. 0-60 in 10 sec. 80mph. 1000 cc. 100hp. 0-60 in 10 sec. 80mph.

Jack Alpe

1000 cc. 100hp. 0-60 in 10 sec. 80mph. 1000 cc. 100hp. 0-60 in 10 sec. 80mph.

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1000 cc. 100hp. 0-60 in 10 sec. 80mph. 1000 cc. 100hp. 0-60 in 10 sec. 80mph.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

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England ride high on wave of emotion

WHAT was most surprising about events at Twickenham last Saturday was that the result took so many by surprise.

If a team can often take the field burdened with the unnecessary expectation of success, which may not be warranted, it is equally true that a team can take the field grossly under-valued. Rugby being the kind of hazardous game it is, imagined outcomes are rarely fulfilled.

Patently obvious to the point of ridicule, it is nonetheless worth repeating, before we next visit the bookmaker, that both teams are made up, after all, of 15 players and are all of flesh and blood. Talent, I admit, is a little rare.

But in this last capacity, most of England's players had recently demonstrated what they were made of and had

shown that they were endowed with more flesh and blood than their counterparts in the rest of Europe. Furthermore, they have always been able to match the better boys from Down Under. They were a tough unit.

It was rugby nous that had let them down so narrowly against Australia and New Zealand in the World Cup; it is the gradual acquiring of this tactical know-how which has been the significant difference in England's recent development. Quite how the analysis suggested a drubbing this time round is not clear.

It is true that both Geoff Cooke and Will Carling had not resisted too strenuously the view that they were coming from a long way behind. Perhaps, the player's audio cassettes gave psychological go-up messages which were



Gerald Davies believes the defeat of New Zealand should not have taken the rugby world by surprise

different from what the world at large knew. But the view from inside the team's camp is confidently up on the outside, the team used to talk it down. And they cannot afford to take the loser's view at any price.

But there were at least two practical reasons why it was going to be a closer-run game than had been imagined. The first was that too many confident conclusions had been drawn about New Zealand after their overwhelming defeat of Scotland. Of course, New Zealand gave a comprehensive performance in the

circumstances. But had not too much credit been given? Were not Scotland weak?

That a team manages to score over 50 points suggests not the close call to the perfect performance which the All Blacks want, but rather an imbalance among the contestants. A score of this magnitude means the team is out of its depth. At international level no such margin of defeat should occur unless one side is so much greater than the other. Praising the quality of one in scoring a half-century of points must not mask the serious deficiencies of the other.

The second point is, that England could match New Zealand where the tourists are traditionally strong; from where, by and large, their game begins — in the back row. Admittedly, Rodber was new, but not unproven while Clark had emerged as a major and much-admired figure in New Zealand with the Lions.

As for Richards, what more is there left to say about him? He was always likely to be in his element in the kind of contest the All Blacks were going to provide — a game played at close quarters. Once matched here, the All Blacks had to start thinking differently. To depart from their own traditional strength, as they found in the last World Cup, does not come easily to them.

Andrew added to their woes by simply frustrating them with his soaring kicks, which

carried no greater intent than to turn the opposition. The tactics were correct for the day; but will they be enough to sustain them for the future? Have they more up their sleeves? For England it will remain a season of tests of various sorts — of players, of style and of continuity.

Here is one more. Twickenham was an electrifying place to be last weekend. England were, for a change, the underdogs. Rugby's greatest scalp was on offer; and it was a time of reckoning.

England's management have been at some pains to point out, quite rightly, that an international team cannot ride continuously on a wave of emotion. There must be discipline, control and direction. The question is: how far, then, was this a performance moved by passion?

Luyt sends out signal of hope to calm World Cup doubts

Andrew Longmore on how South Africa is preparing to stage rugby's greatest event



In the sunshine of a brilliant Johannesburg morning, Ellis Park, venue for the rugby union World Cup final in 1995, looks no more threatening than Twickenham on a wet Monday. Preparations for the biggest sporting event to be staged in South Africa continue apace, despite increasing unease about the wisdom of the International Rugby Football Board's (IRFB) choice of host.

Both Dick Best, the England coach, and Pierre Berbizier, his opposite number in France, have openly questioned the decision. Nobody doubts that the newly united South African Rugby Football Union (SARFU) has the ability to stage the show nor that the benefits to the nation, in prestige as much as hard cash, will be enormous.

But butterflies must be churning in a number of stomachs at the prospect of another sporting event being hijacked for political ends or, worse, becoming entangled in the violence. The history of South African sport over the past ten years does little to ease those fears, though the ANC, President de Klerk and the Inkatha Party have supported the World Cup project from the start.

In his plush office at Ellis Park, Dr Louis Luyt, chairman of SARFU's World Cup organising committee, bluntly refuses to countenance any pessimism. Only God can guarantee peace, he says, but people will have forgotten their worries and their differences by the time the first ball is kicked 18 months hence.

"I understand the fears, but they come from 2,000 miles away. My feeling is that the political situation will have calmed down considerably a few months after the elections next year and that the World Cup will go ahead quite peacefully," he said.

Dr Luyt is an imposing figure. More prop forward in build now than he was when he captained Orange Free State at No.8, he neither ducks criticism nor minces words. Luyt's critics question his heavy-handedness more than his sincerity. With sporting administration in a strange limbo between old and new, Luyt's gruff Afrikaaner manner can all too easily be taken, like rugby itself, as a symbol of a rotten past.

He was widely blamed for the failure over the singing of the South African national anthem before an international with the All Blacks earlier in the year, which upset the delicate balance between rugby and its new political masters and almost brought the tour to a premature end. Luyt protests that it was all a "cock-up", that tempers rose because the rugby authorities refused to allow their players to wear black arm bands in the name of peace and democracy. But his handling of the affair was insensitive in the ex-

trême and did little to soften his reputation for autocracy. He might own up to that charge, but not to another. "I am not a racist, never have been. In fact, I was the first to stage a multi-racial golf tournament, back in 1971. I spoke out for the release of Mandela in 1984."

Attack is certainly his best form of defence in championing South Africa's rights. He points out that the campaigns of the IRA did not threaten the last tournament in Britain, dismisses the recent spate of killings in his own country as the work of a "lunatic fringe" and issues a veiled warning to the IRFB.

"They cannot just take the World Cup away from us. We have an agreement and expect it to be honoured. If not, there would be legal implications," he says.

In which Luyt, with a son and a daughter in law and himself midway through his own doctorate in the subject (he already has one in business administration), would be well armed. "If it is going to be called off we would do it ourselves. We would be stupid not to. We could not afford to have any security problems. Late 1994 would be the last moment for cancellation, he says.

Yet, behind some bluster worthy of the world's biggest fertiliser company, is a genuine concern for the future which, Luyt feels, lies not in throwing money at lost causes but by encouraging lasting interest. "We have had 2,000 black kids here and we give them coaching, but I don't know how many will come back."

"Football is the most popular game among black people. Not many come to rugby. We want people to make the effort and tell us where we can help. There are still those who want to keep the game as a white preserve, but not many now."

Luyt's main frustration is that too many non-rugby people are becoming involved in running the game. Too many committees, too many political factions. "South African rugby is in a mess," he concludes. "If you don't know the game, you can't run it."



Best: questions

All Blacks up against worthy foe at Cardiff

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

LIKE a child with a jar of sweets, you cannot keep Ian McGeechan away from the All Blacks. Just one more, he seems to say and tomorrow the Barbarians will grant him his wish. McGeechan, retired player, retired national coach, will have yet another stab at the nation he respects above all — New Zealand.

Already he has two credits against the men in black — as coach to the world team which won in Christchurch in 1992 and as coach to the British Isles who won in Wellington earlier this year. Were he to add victory in Cardiff in the final to the All Blacks tour of England and Scotland, that would be some treble.

The invitation to McGeechan to prepare the Barbarians comes because he is a committeeman for the most famous invitation club in the world. He has been keeping his hand in with London Scottish and observing the All Blacks from a distance, enjoying the freedom of knowing that there is no deadline when "his" international squad must be ready.

England, he believes, were the first side on the present tour to ask questions these All Blacks could not answer. "I think the sides they played earlier made life easy for them, either by trying to contain them or running at them willy-nilly, which opened the way for them to score," McGeechan said.

"There's no great secret to their game, it's doing the basics so well, and on this tour they have not departed from the pattern they laid down against Australia and South Africa last year. That's the pattern we tried to combat with the Lions last summer."

McGeechan believes that last weekend New Zealand's inexperience was finally exposed. In the summer, they had changed their game within the space of eight days, when they had Grant Fox at the helm. "At Twickenham they needed someone to break the game up, to kick, to tighten things, to change the focus of where they wanted to play."

"England have good rugby players who are also big men with the right attitude. So many of their team had first-hand knowledge of the All

Blacks. If you are clear how you want to play and what you have to produce personally to make it happen, then you are well on the way to beating the myth of New Zealand rugby."

You have to develop an advantage through the forwards. But they must recognise that when they have manipulated an advantage it can be taken to its full extent through the backs. "The New Zealanders themselves have done that against lesser opponents than England, forcing their way over the advantage line and creating so many options for the back-up runners that the rhythm they contrive is almost impossible to destroy."

McGeechan believes that the present tour, coming on the back of the Lions visit, has created a core group of British players with the direct experience of success over New Zealand which must benefit the home unions in future. The key, however, will be whether they are required to produce the necessary physical and mental attributes frequently enough for them to become second nature.

As for tomorrow, McGeechan is convinced that the All Blacks will seek to go out trailing clouds of glory. "We give them that chance because we put out against them a team coming together only 48 hours before the game." Echoes of Geoff Cooke playing down England's chances a week ago.

McGeechan will call upon the experience of Ewen McKenzie, who has helped beat the All Blacks five times in Australia's colours. Olivier Roumat who was in his world XV in Christchurch and Ireland's Nick Poppell, who also knows what it is to beat the men in black.

Twenty years ago a famous chapter was written in rugby legend when another Barbarians team, prepared by another Lions coach in Carwyn James, defeated in Cardiff another New Zealand team, led by a Kirkpatrick rather than a Fitzpatrick. That was a day when genius was at work on and off the field: today the work ethic prevails. Will that be enough for McGeechan as he goes once more to the well?



Coveney jumps highest to claim possession for the Oxford University Greyhounds at Iliffy Road yesterday

Greyhounds give chase to no avail

Oxford Greyhounds 20
Cambridge LX Club 23

By David Hands

IF THEIR seniors can produce at Twickenham next Tuesday as much incident and effort as did Oxford University Greyhounds and the Cambridge University LX Club at Iliffy Road yesterday, then 65,000 people should leave west London happy. Whether the right side won is open to debate but all the LXs need to do is point to the scoreboard.

They won the "little varsity match" by a try and six penalty goals to a try and five penalties, settling into their stride far more quickly than Oxford and then defending the lead which they held from the

second minute of the game. Even so a vocal crowd enjoyed the way the Greyhounds edged back into every phase of the game.

Outpurred by Dower and his cohorts in the first half, beaten for loose ball, they came back from 17-6 down, led by the South African hooker, Cooper, who was so close to a blue. But they could not nullify Thompson's effort: he kicked five of his seven penalty attempts before the interval and one more afterwards.

The Cambridge stand-off half, Pring, was the only genuine controller of the ball and it was appropriate that the LX Club try came direct from the lineout position he established: Dower guided the ball down and Huw Jones was driven over from close range.

Before half-time, however, Oxford responded with a fine try of their own. Allison steered the ball into a corner and when Coveney won the Cambridge throw, Allison joined his line to send Brennan scampering over for the try which restored heart to Oxford.

Too much perhaps. They entered a frenetic period when they tried to run anything and everything, and were fortunate that Cambridge could not punish them. But all Oxford could manage was two more penalties from Merriman.

SCORES: Oxford Greyhounds: Try: Brennan; Penalty goals: Merriman (5). Cambridge LX: Try: Jones; Penalty goals: Thompson (6).
OXFORD GREYHOUNDS: G. Allison (St Paul's and Tottenham), J. Bassett (Bedford and New), M. Merriman (St Bartholomew's, Newbury and Kable), E. Dickinson (Cheltenham and St Cross), J. Brennan (Marston, Tylers, Cooley and St

Ann's); G. Jones (Easthampstead Park, Wokingham and Liphinst), G. Babb (Liphinst and Wokingham), R. Tice (Stoke and Wokingham), G. Cooper (Dorchester College, Dorchester and Kable), A. Bryce (Gloucester and Kable), R. Underhill (Liphinst Upper and Green), R. Vesilley (Bedfordshire and Kable), P. Coveney (Chorlton Wood, Dulwich and Tottenham), A. Bridgwood (Cheltenham and Kable), C. Ratcliffe (KCS Wimbledon and Kable).

CAMBRIDGE LX CLUB: S. Phillips (KCS Worcester and St Edmund's), W. Thompson (Arncliffe and Magdalen), P. Bingham (Ampleforth and St Edmund's), G. Bird (St Andrew's, Gillingham and Huggs Hall), J. Walton (Brighton and Hove Vi Form College and Downing), C. Pring (Stamford GS and Queens), G. Gresham (Gresham's and Downing), D. Duckworth (Bradford GS and St Edmund's), T. Kain-Rosch (Dulwich and Essex), J. Tibbatt (Kent College and Huggs Hall), T. Dower (RGS Newcastle and St John's), H. Jones (St Oyn's and Cakes), E. Rollitt (St Paul's and Magdalen).

Referee: P. Dickens (East Midlands).

Double trips put clubs in trouble

By Alex Ramsay

WOMEN'S national league hockey clubs play their final league matches before Christmas tomorrow and the third round of the AEWHA Cup on Sunday. For some clubs the cost of travelling to two matches in one weekend will stretch their resources to the limit while for Clifton the burden has proved too great and they have withdrawn from the cup.

Clifton are away to Chelmsford in the league and would have been away to Doncaster on Sunday. Their manager, Graham Culliford, felt the club could not finance two overnight stops and travelling costs in one weekend.

"It would have cost more than £600 which had to come out of the girls' pockets," Culliford said. "The decision was purely financial."

Clifton are by no means the only club affected. Ipswich

will be on the road for much of the weekend, travelling to Ealing in the league and to Sunderland in the cup.

After tomorrow, the league takes a two-month break for indoor and territorial commitments but some clubs feel it should be possible to clear at least one weekend to fit in an extra round of the cup or the league to help spread the load for the top teams.

"There have been moves to limit the number of competitions but it has always met with opposition," Teresa Morris, the executive director of the All England Women's Hockey Association, said. "Our job is to provide for everyone at all levels, not just the top dogs."

However, as long as every event is given equal billing and the clubs insist on entering every competition, the problem will not go away.

Smith relishes conditions

By Barry Pickthall

INTRUM Justitia, the leading yacht in the Whitbread Round the World Race, gained another four miles on Tokyo, her closest rival, yesterday and is now within 1,800 miles of lifting the Heineken Trophy at Fremantle on this 7,500-mile second stage from Punta del Este.

After recapturing the Omega 24-hour challenge, yachting's equivalent of a yellow jersey, with a record run of 425 miles on Monday, the delighted Intrum skipper, Lawrie Smith, reported yesterday: "The last days have been fantastic sailing, the type of experience that makes you want to sail the Whitbread another time, after logging an almost constant 20 knots." Even a whale zig-zagging in the path failed to slow them, Smith went on.

"Luckily, we escaped without any confrontation. We can only think it found our grey hull attractive."

Sailing 72 miles astern, Andrew Cape, Tokio's navigator, said that, after the freezing conditions of the Southern Ocean, his crew can't wait for the hot weather of Perth. "We are fast but very, very wet and the water is not at all warm."

On board Galicia '93, the fourth-placed Whitbread 60, Juan Vila reported the imminent arrival of yet another gale to give the fleet another chance at breaking the Omega record. Vila, who was also navigator aboard the Spanish maxi, Fortuna, when she set a 411-mile world record in these same waters four years ago, the same distance that Galicia covered on Tuesday, said: "These Whitbread 60s are proving a lot faster than the maxis in winds above 30 knots. Compared to Fortuna, Galicia covered the same miles in less wind."

On board Winston, the fifth-placed American 60, the skipper, Brad Butterworth, must be kicking himself for staying north of the Kerguelen Islands

and out of the strong winds. She has slipped 240 miles behind Intrum and is threatened by the Italian entry, Brookfield, skippered by Guido Maisto. Remarkably, Matt Humphries and his crew on Dolphin & Youth Challenge continue to hold seventh place despite losing time attempting to fix their broken rudder.

Smith predicted yesterday that Intrum could finish as early as December 8, eight hours ahead of Tokio and 15 hours ahead of the leading maxis.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 14:00 GMT yesterday with miles to Fremantle, Australia): Whitbread 60 class: 1. Intrum Justitia (S. Smith, Exel, 1,848 miles); 2. Tokio (C. Davies, N2, 1,918); 3. Yarnawa (P. Fitch, N2, 1,976); 4. Galicia (S. Perrenoud, 1,600 miles); 5. Winston (B. Butterworth, N2, 2,115); 6. Brookfield (G. Humphries, 2,156); 7. Dolphin & Youth Challenge (M. Humphries, 2,256); 8. Warner's Challenge (G. Riley, 2,261); 9. Fortuna (S. Smith, 2,262); 10. Odebrecht (A. Votaw, 2,262); 11. NZ Endeavour (G. Carter, 2,262); 12. Murt Cup (G. Perrenoud, 2,262); 13. La Poste (D. Mole, 2,262); 14. Uruguay Natural (G. Vanzetti, 2,262). Information provided by BT.

FIXTURES

7.30 kick-off unless stated
FOOTBALL
FA Cup
Second round
Port Vale v. Huddersfield (7.45)
Endinburgh v. Inverness
First division
Preston v. Peterborough
NEVILLE EVANS COMBINATION: First division: Luton v. Crystal Palace (2.0); Norwich v. Ipswich
SEAZER HONOR LEAGUE: Midland division: Birmingham City v. Notts County
OTHER SPORT
RUGBY UNION: Heineken World League: Second division: Munster v. Edinburgh (7.15); Leinster v. Aberystwyth (7.15)
RUGBY LEAGUE: Super League: Championship: Hull v. St Helens
RUGBY LEAGUE: Super League: Championship: Wakefield v. Wigan
DARTS: Embassy world qualifying (Park Inn Hotel, London)

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

ACETABULUM

(c) A sucker of the cuttle-fish, or other cephalopod, by which it adheres to bodies. From the Latin *acetabulum* a vinegar cup or saucer, also a saucer, a liquid measure, from *acetum* vinegar + *-abulum* diminutive of *-abrum* a holder or receptacle. "The arms are provided with acetabula or sucking discs, for adhesion to bodies."

BOOSE

(a) A stall for a cow or (less usually) a horse, especially the upper part of the stall where the fodder is placed, probably from OE *bōs* cow, whence *bōsing* a cow-stall; Lancashire glossary, 1875: "Boose, a cattle stall. Often used for the upper part of the stall where the fodder is placed; as 'Yo'll find it in the cow's boose'."

VERRUCOSE

(a) Covered or furnished with, full of, verrucose or wart-like excrescences or growths, from the Latin *verruca* a wart or precious stone: "The skin is covered by epidermis, in some parts thin and delicate, in others thick, horny, and verrucose."

YARBOROUGH

(c) A hand of cards at whist or bridge containing no higher than nine, a depressing business. Said to be so called because a certain Earl of Yarborough used to bet 1,000 to 1 against the occurrence of such a hand. Very generous odds, in my experience. If offered such a bet, go for it. "I have held yarboroughs and been doubled and ruffed all the evening."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Nf4! defends everything, as 1 ... Nx3 2 Nxe6+ wins for White. Kasparov went on to win with his extra pawn.

Marshall relishes chance to resume challenge

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

ENGLAND'S two leading squash players pick up the trail of the world's elite again today when Peter Marshall and Philip Whitlock start work in the Professional Squash Association (PSA) Super Series play-offs in Zurich.

There is some question about the overall management sense of the PSA scheduling the climax of their televised circuit within a few days of their other prime event, the world open championship, but, for Marshall in particular, it provides an ideal opportunity for another of his challenges upon the highest levels of the game.

Aged 22, based in Nottingham and uniquely double-handed in a sport which demands constant full extension in all directions, Marshall reached the semi-finals of the world open in Karachi and of the Qatar International that preceded it, each time failing only against the world champion, Jansher Khan.

Injuries to the two leading Australians, Chris Dittmar and Rodney Martin, have moved Marshall to third seed in Zurich behind Jansher and Brett Martin, although Jansher Khan has inevitably returned from retirement yet again in response to the lure of a big-money prize available to him after his unexpected place in the world open final.

The draw of the Zurich event gives Marshall a chance of two more bites at Jansher, who he also tested in the semi-finals of the world team championship last week. They are drawn together in group A.



Marshall: challenger

for the round-robin play-offs over the weekend, with the likelihood of Martin or Jansher emerging as opponents in Monday's crossover semi-finals from group B.

Whitlock, the 31-year-old Manchester sports retailer who has enjoyed by far his most successful season since winning the national championship in January, is also drawn in group B in Zurich, although he might have to settle for a brief appearance before returning to the workaday priority of defending his domestic title at Herts County Club in Welwyn Garden City next month.

At the national championships, backed again by the Squash Rackets Association and returned by popular demand to British entry after a questionable move to exclusive English character last season, the respect Whitlock has earned on the circuit this year will count for little when his peers challenge him.

PLAY-OFFS: Group A: Jansher Khan (Pak), P. Marshall (Eng), R. Martin (Aus), R. Eyles (Aus), P. Whitlock (Eng), Jansher Khan (Pak).

Ringmaster who never joined circus



Stevenson measures his opponent while preparing to throw the devastating right-hand punch that brought him to so many rapid victories. Photograph: Allsport

I took the defection of 34 Cuban sportsmen at the Central American and Caribbean Games in Puerto Rico last weekend to make headlines in newspapers all over the world. Twenty years ago, it would have taken just one, Teofilo Stevenson, to hold up whole front pages.

Now that there is no Cold War, the 34 athletes will have little more than some nuisance propaganda value for the Americans. Thereafter, they will either return home disappointed that no one wants them, or add to the number of the world's referees. Stevenson would have changed the world of heavyweight boxing.

More than 20 years on, the Cubans are still basking in the glory of his victory over the great white American hope, Duane Bobick, in the quarter-finals of the 1972 Olympics in Munich.

The tall, upright, good-looking Stevenson cut Bobick down to size in such a clinical manner that the boxing world thought another heavyweight potentially as great as Muhammad Ali had arrived. Had Stevenson turned professional, boxing experts would surely have been proved right. No trainer in the world doubts that he would have been world champion.

He ruled the amateur world for 14 years, though in the later stages not with absolute authority. He won three Olympic titles, three world titles, two Pan-American Games championships. He retired in 1986, after becoming world champion for the third time and receiving the Olympic order of merit.

He was the scourge of American heavyweights trying to make a name in world competitions. In the 1976 Olympics, he knocked out John Tate with the first blow of the first round. Three years later, Tate was world champion. It is said that Greg Page, who became champion in 1986, made certain that he



Srikumar Sen reflects on what might have been had the pride of Cuba decided to try to get rich

never found himself in the same competition as Stevenson.

Of course, Stevenson had no intention of terrorising American professionals. He said he hated professional boxing, believing it to be exploitative and dangerous.

When Bob Arum, the American promoter, offered him \$8 million to come over to the United States to box Ali, he replied: "I don't believe in professionalism, only in revolution. I tell these men from America, these promoters, that money means nothing to me. What is \$8 million against eight million Cubans who love me?"

Stevenson, now a greying 41-year-old, has still not changed his views about professional boxing and is still close to President Fidel Castro. Now the public relations spokesman for Cuba Deportes (Cuban Sport), he apparently never dwells on the fact that his one-up, one-down house in Havana might have been a mansion and his Lada car, a Lincoln.

"Looking back, I never thought I accomplished very much. But you know what made me realise I accomplished a lot? The people of Cuba who support me and love me," he told John Hornever, Lennox Lewis's adviser, in *Boxing Monthly* recently. But Hornever felt he noticed a fleeting wishfulness, mischievous amusement, in Stevenson's eyes at the thought of the disfigurement of American heavyweights.

"I feel satisfied at not having competed against Cassius Clay, George Foreman and Joe Frazier," he said. "There was a chance for me to fight Ali, but following the rules of professional boxing, with

three bouts of five rounds and five bouts of three rounds. Why did Bob Arum set up these rules because Ali and I had decided to box? We have to ask why?"

Trained by a Russian, Stevenson was an excellent boxer, with a safe, high guard but his greatest quality was being able to deliver from that position the deadliest right hand in boxing.

There can be little doubt that he had the punch to knock out Ali, Foreman and Frazier. Reg Gutteridge, Britain's most

knowledgeable boxing writer, says in his book *The Big Fights*, in which Stevenson is the only amateur to be given a chapter: "Stevenson had the most devastating delayed action power I have seen. At long range he seemed invincible. . . . Sometimes the shocked receiver would turn away, then collapse as if wondering how the bolt from the blue had landed without warning."

It can be argued that Ali's speed would have beaten Stevenson and Foreman might have been too powerful and robust for the 6ft 4in Cuban. But it can also be said that if Stevenson had wanted to turn professional he would have learned how to deal with those clubbing punches of Foreman. Be that as it may, Frazier

certainly would have been made for Stevenson, for the Philadelphia never stopped coming forward. He would have run into the blows straight from the shoulder.

Angelo Dundee, who studied Frazier closely from the opposite corner, says: "When Joe would have opened up he would have been caught by the Stevenson right, right up the pike."

"Hey, that guy was for real. He stayed cool under fire and when he hit you it was an execution."

"There is no doubt that if he had been able to make the transition he would not just have been a world champion but one of the greats. But I don't think he would have beaten Ali. Against George

Foreman? The young George Foreman? I've gotta love George."

Once Frazier was out of the way, the butterfly effect of the chaos theory on events would have been put into motion. At least 13 world champions would have been affected.

The 12 of his time that Stevenson would have had no trouble disposing of would have been Leon Spinks, Tate, Mike Weaver (who had to go 15 rounds to beat Tate), Michael Dokes, Gerrie Coetzee, Tim Witherspoon, Pinklon Thomas, Greg Page, Tony Tubbs, Michael Spinks, James Smith and Trevor Berbick.

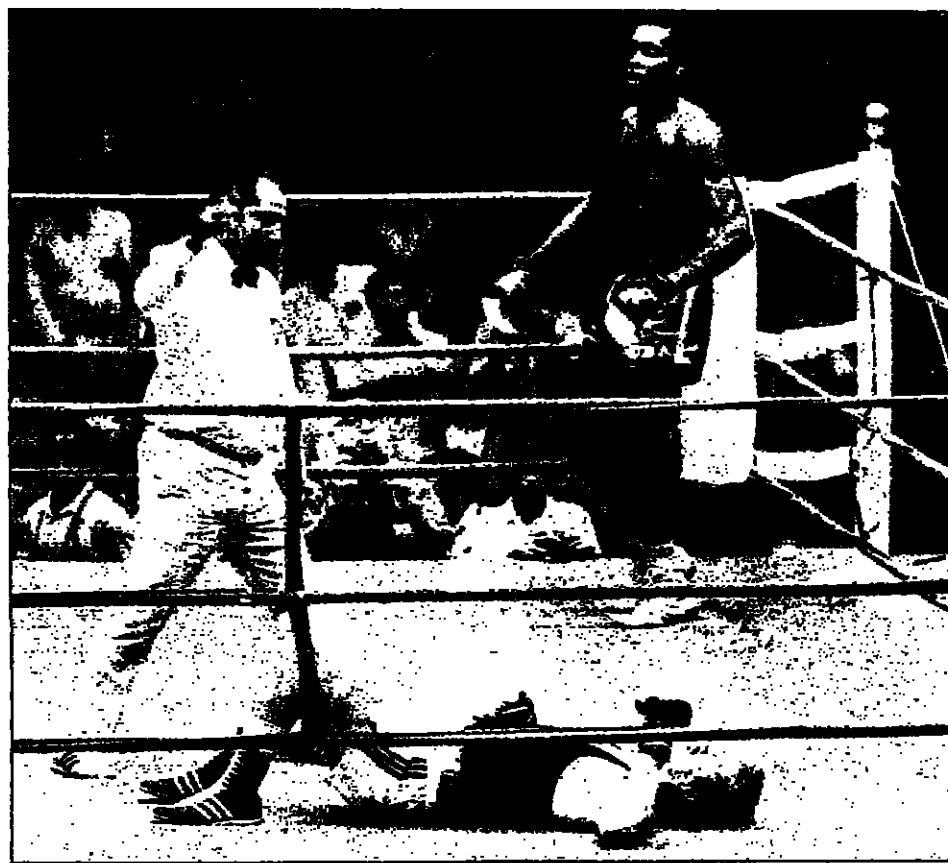
If you disagree with this evaluation, take the simple yardstick of Frank Bruno. He was knocked out by a novice, James Smith, after winning every round. Yet he went on to box three times for the world title, each time getting stopped but never disgracing himself.

Indeed, against Tim Witherspoon and Lennox Lewis he was in front on many cards at the time of the stoppage. All this with little more than an ABA and a European title under his belt and a helping hand from his matchmaker.

What could the great Cuban, who was 11 times national champion, seven times Central American and Caribbean champion, three times world champion, not to mention his Olympic achievements, have done had he turned professional?

No wonder Henry Cooper remarked in the book *The Big Fights*: "If Ali was worth a million to become a pro after the Rome Olympics, Stevenson was worth two million after he won at Munich. The thing he could do better than Ali was knock people out with one punch."

"If he had improved like Ali there is no telling how good he might have been. I bet old Angelo Dundee would have swum from Miami to Havana if he thought Stevenson would have signed with him."



Another knockout as the German, Peter Hussing, takes the full count in 1974

Cardiff defence may hold edge in cup final

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

BRITISH ice hockey's first significant event of the season takes place at Sheffield Arena tomorrow when Cardiff Devils and Murrayfield Racers meet in the final of the Benson and Hedges Cup. As a curtain-raiser, the north will meet the south in this country's first All-Star Challenge.

With the Devils and the Racers both in form, the final should be closely contested and, taking into account the forward power of both teams, high-scoring.

For Murrayfield, Tony Hand tops the premier division individual scorers with Chris Palmer and Richard Laplante in third and fourth places. Cardiff have Rick Breband, Hilton Ruggles and John Lawless in the top 12 with Doug McEwen and Nicky Chinn not far behind. This could be why Cardiff are marginally favourites to retain the Cup, as they could Murrayfield's tendency to rely too much on their first line.

The Scots probably have the edge in goal with Moray Hanson, one of the sport's most experienced goaltenders, in fine form, but Jason Wood will be the first to admit that he has had one or two less than convincing performances in the Cardiff goal this season. Yet he does have experience of the occasion, having played in goal for the Devils when they beat Whitley Warriors 10-4 in last year's final and Cardiff do, just, have the edge defensively.

Sheffield Arena, with its 8,500 capacity, is the largest venue in the country to stage ice hockey on a regular basis and can be a daunting venue for the inexperienced, but Hanson has played many times for his country, so will not be found wanting in that department.

The All-Star Challenge is a new concept and features the players who gained most points based on the their performance in the earlier rounds of the competition, leavened with four "wild-card" selections for each side made by the coaches.

Alex Dampier, of Sheffield, and Rocky Saganjuk, of Murrayfield, will coach the northern select, while Peter Johnson, of Humberstone, and John Lawless, of Cardiff, will coach the south, meaning that there is no shortage of experience behind the bench.

The line-ups themselves read like a list of all that is most exciting and entertaining in British ice hockey. The northern squad includes players like Anthony Payne, Richard Little, Scott Morrison and David Longstaff while, for the south, there are Mario Belanger, Paul Adey, Russ Parent and Terry Kurianbach.

Their presence should ensure a high-scoring game, great entertainment for the spectators who are advised to arrive well in time for the 11.50am start — but not so much fun for the defenders on view.

□ The National Hockey League's regular referees and linesmen return to the ice last night after the league and its striking officials ratified a four-year contract. The agreement gives the officials pay rises ranging from \$18,000 to \$84,000 and ends the use of replacement officials, whose performance was severely criticised by many players.

Sun-soaked fairways far cry from Eldorado

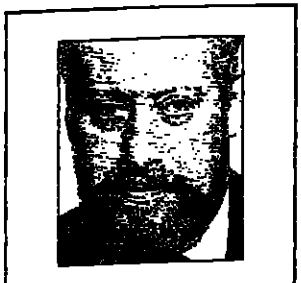
Wednesday was a public holiday in Portugal. Our supermarket is closed, the restaurants serve only six-course feast-day specials, then the maid doesn't come in. Mid-week holidays — despite the frequency of their occurrence — still take non-indigenous people by surprise.

When you ask locals in the Algarve what they are celebrating it is usually the feast of St Miguel the Dwarf; of you nod, say "of course, foolish of me to forget", and go to a bar for a glass of fine old brandy — a description I would question on all three counts.

In fact Wednesday marked The Restoration of Independence in 1640.

What is that about? It is said the man who keeps an eye on my bouffe piste, about getting a day off work.

As December 1 is the last midweek holiday until December 8 one makes the best of it... as does the workforce which has just been awarded a second month's annual holiday.



FREUD ON FRIDAY

Our Maria, she who did not come in, now gets 14 months' pay a year and one month's holiday during which we pay somebody else to do her work. Social Security annually receives 15 times 35 per cent of her monthly pay.

Over a second glass of Borges five-star we consider some available pastimes. At Monchique there is a course in Tai Ji Quan and Chi. The local paper which advertises this explains that the science is directed by the search for health and well-being

through the process of learning to control vital energy and communion with nature.

Monchique is in the mountains above Portimao, the sardine capital of the world. We go there now and again to buy a fruit-flavoured poteon which is cloudy but sensationally alcoholic; also wicker chairs made by the locals.

The alternative is synchronised swimming at the new pool complex in Loule. I telephoned to ask for performance times. There is no reply. It is a holiday.

So I decide on golf: the Parque da Floresta near Budens is situated halfway between Lagos and Sagres on the coastal road. It was built by a company called Beach Villas — local estate agents and men from Beirut putting up the £3 million to construct the course and adjoining villas.

It opened in 1987, was sold for about £6 million two years later. In 1990 the new owners were in trouble: an administrator was appointed and the following year he put together a package to allow the

place to keep trading... just. Morale is low. Wages are said to be paid only in part. An Englishman who has a villa there invited me to play. The usual green fee is £25, a trolley costs £18, hire of a bag £6, half a dozen second-hand balls £4. I am told it is the least expensive course in the land.

The 1st hole is 560 yards, hilly, sloping and if you hit two good drives you are left with a seven or eight-iron to the green, over a chasm. You then walk back to the clubhouse (600 yards) to buy some more balls.

I conceded the hole to my opponent and we gazed at the Eldorado-like complex (Eldorado as seen on BBC) above the 18th green. I ask what the houses are worth. Trouble. Due to faulty conveyancing nobody has a legal right to their property until a grant habitation licence is granted. No such licence will be granted until the infrastructure is in place. Now they have stopped expanding there will be no such infrastructure.

Hole two is a short par four. The second shot is semi-blind unless you are very tall and can catch sight of the top of the flag. To its credit there is a great view of the sea and the village of Salema.

Twelve of the 80 or so houses were built on a site that had been wrongly assessed by geologists: when the rains came they began to slide down the hill, had to be demolished. All had been sold. The insurance, paid £750,000 compensation. None of the dozen owners received any of this money which was taken by the developers.

Is that not illegal? My opponent said: "Not illegal, just immoral."

The third hole is short: 157 yards. Half the balls land in the garden of the late George Davidson. Davidson built his house ten years before the advent of the golf course and offered to build a stile so that golfers could reclaim their balls... but they played shots from his flower-bed.

His successor in the house does a reasonable trade selling second-hand balls to the pro shop.

I ask about caddies: if I played on my own, me with my eyesight... my opponent says no caddies. Caddies are villains around here. You need a policeman for every caddie.

The 4th hole is long and narrow and is played into a gale and wherever the ball lands seems to be out of bounds. A hateful hole. I ask what is par for the course? Seventy-two.

What is the course record? Seventy-one.

The 5th hole is amazing: 100 yards downhill onto a postage stamp of a green surrounded by fierce bunkers.

Who built this course? "A man known as the Picasso of golf construction." That figures. From the green at the 5th you get a great view of the residential complex of Floresta. Perhaps if Eldorado comes back by popular demand...

Akinwande looks for meeting with Hide

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER his fourth-round victory over Biagio Chianese, of Italy, on Wednesday night, Henry Akinwande is looking forward to the next defence of his European heavyweight title against his arch rival, Herbie Hide, of Norwich. Purse offers have to be in by December 6 (Srikumar Sen writes). However, Akinwande's manager, Mickey Duff, is certain that Hide will avoid facing Akinwande. "My confident prediction is Hide will pull out," Duff said.

If, however, Hide accepts the purse offer, three titles will be at stake — Akinwande's European and Commonwealth titles and Hide's British crown — even though the bout has been ordered by the European Boxing Union, though the British Boxing Board of Control will first have to decide whether Hide was British when he won the title. Duff said the bout would be in February. The winner could meet Frank Bruno.

If the bout with Hide falls through, Duff said his man

was ready to take on any top heavyweight. He will be going to the World Boxing Council convention in Las Vegas, on December 12, to seek a top ten nomination for Akinwande, who is at present No 11. Duff believes that, after three or four performances like the one against Chianese, he would be ready for the world champions, Lennox Lewis or Evander Holyfield.

Chianese was prevented from continuing his fourth round because of a deep gash between the eyes that needed eight stitches. The injury was a blessing in disguise as the flabby Italian, who weighed 181st 12lb, was out of his depth. He managed to land only one good blow in four rounds and was on his way to the pasting of his life.

Of the punch that opened the cut, Akinwande said: "It was one of the best right upper cuts I have ever thrown. They keep telling me that 1994 will be my year and after this performance I believe it myself."

By JOHN GOODBODY

Selected stores only. Subject to availability. By law we are not allowed to sell alcoholic drinks to minors under 18 years of age.

BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (22883)
7.00 Breakfast News (97490135)
9.05 Kilroy Topical studio discussion (s) (4555222)
9.45 Newshound. Current affairs quiz (s) (4513338)
10.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (1805970) 10.05 Playdays (s) (3288715)
10.30 Good Morning... With Anne and Nick. Weekly magazine (15410715)
12.15 Pebble Mail with Judi Spens (s) (9713241) 12.55 Regional News and weather (13436488)
1.00 One O'Clock News (CeeFax) (455551)
1.30 Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (3503311) 1.50 The Travel Quiz (s) (20468609) 2.20 Holiday (i) (CeeFax) (s) (17285338)
2.50 The Flying Doctors. Johnno is sceptical when a pilot friend is blamed for an aircraft crash and decides to investigate. (CeeFax) (s) (8779999)
3.35 Children's BBC: Cartoon (s) (39050119) 3.45 SuperDuck's Euro Tour (i) (s) (1590425) 3.50 SuperDuck. An exploration of the human body. (CeeFax) (s) (3954135) 4.10 The Animals of Farming Wood (i) (CeeFax) (s) (8044609) 4.35 Record Breakers. Stunt driving powerlifting and the world's biggest aerobics session are featured. (CeeFax) (s) (8782222)
5.00 Newsround (802845) 5.10 Byker Grove. Children's drama series. (CeeFax) (4255661)
5.35 Neighbours (i) (CeeFax) (653816) Northern Ireland. (CeeFax) (s) (8779999)
6.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (38)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (30)
7.00 Tomorrow's World. Includes a look at 3-D television. (CeeFax) (s) (8864)
7.30 Dr Who and the Daleks. The Doctor and the Thals are being pursued through the jungle by Dalek patrols and the legendary life forms of the hostile planet (i) (CeeFax) (7)
8.00 Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game. Family couples from around Britain compete for prizes. (CeeFax) (s) (7593)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. (CeeFax) Regional news and weather (5883)

BBC2

- 6.55 FILM: San Quentin (1946, b/w). A group of ex-convicts become vigilantes when one of their number returns to crime. This crime thriller marked the film debut of Raymond Burr. Directed by Gordon M. Douglas. (6053048)
8.00 Breakfast News (2743203)
8.15 Westminster Daily. (9535425)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 1.20 Fingerhouse (6356715) 1.35-1.40 Crystal Tippe and Aletia (2339332)
2.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (8349715) 2.05 Words and Pictures (81899048)
2.15 Sport on Friday with Helen Rollason, featuring the World Cup women's soccer match between the USA and the Netherlands. Highlights of the Australian Open golf; and a preview of tomorrow's rugby match between the All Blacks and the Barbarians in Cardiff (s) (158319). Includes at 3.00 and 3.50 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (1578932)
4.00 Catchword. Word game (s) (13)
4.30 A Cook's Tour of France II. This week, the South-west (i). (CeeFax) (s) (15)
5.00 Today's Day. Quiz with Martin Lewis (4870)
5.30 Top Gear. (i) (CeeFax) (s) (87)
6.00 Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons. Animation (CeeFax) (419845)
6.25 The Men from Uncle. Spoof secret agent adventures. (CeeFax) (405628)
7.15 The Living Seas. Tensions are rising in this fly-on-the-wall documentary as Christmas approaches (s) (982870)
7.45 What the Papers Say with John Diamond of The Times (328609)
8.00 Public Eye: The Cruel Sea. John McGhie reports on people whose houses are being allowed to slip into the sea (6154)



Harry Dodson tends his tomato crop (8.30pm)

- 8.30 [CHOICE] The Wartime Kitchen and Garden. (CeeFax) (s) (5661)
9.00 Bottom. Unsubtle comedy series (i) (CeeFax) (s) (3425)
9.30 [CHOICE] The Team: A Season with McLaren. (CeeFax) (s) (88951)
10.00 News at 10. News for You. Address Kathy Burke and Lord Llewellyn Jones. Ian Hislop, Paul Merton and host Angus Deayton with a light-hearted look at the news (38222)
10.30 Newsnight. (CeeFax) (725222)
11.15 The Larry Sanders Show. Comedy series that goes behind the scenes of a late-night American television chat show (s) (589593)
11.40 Weather (311113)
11.45 FILM: Rustlers' Rhinoceros (1985) starring Tom Berenger. Spoof western featuring singing cowboy Rex O'Hanlin in his designer stetson taking on a dastardly cattle baron. Directed by Hugh Wilson (294406) Ends at 1.15am

VideoPlus and the Video PlusCode
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers. These can be used with a VideoPlus+ receiver. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video recorders. For more details on the programme plus code system, see the VideoPlus+ guide on page 102. For more details on the VideoPlus+ system, see the VideoPlus+ guide on page 102. For more details on the VideoPlus+ system, see the VideoPlus+ guide on page 102.

CHOICE



Monkhouse and Laurie play it straight (TV, 9.00pm)

All Or Nothing At All (TV, 9.00pm)
Hugh Laurie detaches himself from Stephen Fry to play a conman with a fondness for gambling in a promising new drama from Guy Andrews, of Chancer. Commens are not exactly rare in television fiction but Laurie's Leo Hopkins does offer an original twist. His scam is to coax huge sums out of his friends on the pretence that he can make them a fortune through offshore investments. Leo's real motive is to make himself a fortune from betting on horses. Trouble comes when the gees-gets fail to oblige and the creditors demand their money back. Laurie plays the hero with the right mixture of charm and guile and he is backed by an imaginatively-chosen cast in which Bob Monkhouse makes a rare, and highly effective, excursion into straight acting.

Short Stories: Sheriff Street Kids (Channel 4, 8.00pm)

We are in a poor area of inner-city Dublin. Unemployment and crime are high and expectations are low. There is a special school for disruptive children but it is a battle getting them to attend. They are happier joyriding or setting cars on fire. Marylyn Honey's documentary charts a diversion from this antisocial activity. Three of the boys, known by their nicknames of Mader, Glister and Little Docker, train pigeons. Their tender handling of the birds, housed in lofts on the roof of a tower block, contrasts with the mayhem on the streets. The parish priest announces a pigeon race, with tempting prize money, but even as the birds are released through that one of the lads is back to his bad old ways.

The Wartime Kitchen and Garden (BBC2, 8.30pm)

The year 1942 might have been a dreary one for those who lived through it, but it provides rich material for another dip into wartime social history. The delightful thing about this series is that although it is based on the soil and the stove, the format is relaxed enough to bring in Vera Lynn and the Andrews Sisters. Popular music was, after all, as much a part of the times as food rationing and growing vegetables in the rubble left by bombs. The hazards of wartime tomato raising take up much of tonight's programme but we are also shown how women painted their legs, seams and all, to make it as if they were wearing unobtainable stockings. The period recreation is as usual immaculate, right down to the soap flakes packet.

The Team - A Season With McLaren (BBC2, 8.30pm)

Ayrton Senna must be crying all the way to the bank. It is just not his season. Three times he has been world champion with McLaren but 1993 is difficult and frustrating. The main reason is that McLaren's car is slower than the rival Williams, and tries as he might the fearless, talented Senna cannot make up for the difference. We should not feel too sorry for a man whose earnings are put at \$2.5 million a year. The longer this series proceeds, the more motor racing is seen to be about money. Like other drivers Senna is a sandwich board for his sponsors. There is hardly a square inch on his racing jacket that does not carry a brand name. Peter Waymark

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 GMTV Early morning news and entertainment (155118) 9.00 Top of the Morning. Magazine presented by Amanda Redington (9408064)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep. Game show (s) (8405811)
9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (3254135)
10.00 The Time... The Place... Topical discussion chaired by John Stapleton (s) (7778154)
10.35 This Morning. Weekly magazine introduced by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Includes, at 10.50, News, regional news and weather (1540154) 12.20 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8511408)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (2404851)
12.55 Coronation Street. A repeat of Wednesday's episode. (Teletext) (2412870) 1.25 Home and Away. Australian family drama. (Teletext) (2664819) 1.55 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in the Australian outback (s) (30013816)
2.20 Capital Woman presented by Anika Rice and Stephen Gardner. How the Budget measures will affect people living in London (1720406) 2.50 Talk a High Road. Soap set in the Highlands (5278970)
3.20 News headlines (9292795) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (9291067)
3.30 Alphabet Castle (s) (3946116) 3.40 Tots TV. Puppet fun (s) (1576574) 3.50 Scooby Doo. (1505088) 4.15 The Legends of Treasure Island (s) (803048) 4.40 Knightsnare Dungeons and dragons adventure game (s) (2083338)
5.10 Home and Away (i). (Teletext) (1681898)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (429270)
6.00 London Tonight. The guests include the singer Suzanne Vega. (Teletext) (50532)
7.00 Family Favourites. Quiz game presented by Les Dennis (s) (4932)



Jeff (Dickens Ashworth) goes to jail (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Coronation Street. Jeff Horton (Dickens Ashworth) visits Terry Dwyer in prison. (Teletext) (70)
8.00 Beattie's About. Another collection of juvenile practical jokes (3680)
8.30 Second Step. Comedy series starring James Bolam and Lydia Bellegue. An examination of tying the knot for the second time around. (Teletext) (s) (2715)
9.00 [CHOICE] All Or Nothing At All. (Teletext) (s) (2425)
10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (32048) 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (504861)
10.40 The London People. An examination of the growing home alone scandals (503131)
11.10 Tour of Duty. Vietnam war drama series (929267)
12.05am Dial Midnight. Phone-in entertainment. With Wendy Lloyd and Bob Mills (s) (351520)
1.05 The TV Chat Show (s) (7799452)
2.05 White On. Music and conversation dominated by James White (878742)
3.10 [CHOICE] Cinema. Cinema. American film reviews (4312015)
3.35 TXT. Music and celebrity chat (3076181)
4.30 Coach. American comedy series (11164)
5.00 Riviera. French drama series (73742)
5.30 ITN Morning News (71723). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.30 [CHOICE] 31 (i) (20154)
7.00 The Big Breakfast. The guests include Lesley Joseph, one of the stars of the sitcom Birds of a Feather (35574)
8.00 You Bet Your Life. American game show hosted by Bill Cosby (i) (s) (42425)
9.30 Schoolhouse. (4501593) 9.45 Sport, Look, Listen (6908680) 10.02 Porridge and Politics in the Modern World (3272154) 10.23 Picture Box (1907300) 10.40 Off Limits (2573593) 11.05 Choices (1450425) 11.22 Stage One (4583203) 11.40 How We Used to Live (803219)
12.00 House to House. Maya Even with news and views from both Houses of Parliament (22661)
12.30 Sesame Street. Early learning entertainment (26093) 1.30 Kaboodle! Series for the young combining animation and live action (72154)
2.00 FILM: The Romantic Age (1948, b/w) starring Mai Zetterling. Hugh Williams and Petula Clark. Comedy set in a girls' finishing school where a French student sets out to seduce the married art master. Directed by Edmond T. Grunewald (154864)
3.35 FILM: Rhythmites (1936, b/w). A song and dance short starring Lila Green and Hal LeRoy (1567661)
3.58 Travelogue. Items on Bavaria and Reykjavik (i). (Teletext) (s) (5389809)
4.30 Fifteen-to-One (Teletext) (s) (83)
5.00 Cutting Edge. The first of a two-part documentary about the Royal Navy's police force (i). (Teletext) (1848)
6.00 Hangin' With Mr Cooper. American comedy series (Teletext) (s) (48)
6.30 Happy Days. Comedy series set in 1950s Milwaukee. Starring Henry Winkler. (Teletext) (220)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (46131)
7.50 First Reaction (897241)



Pigeon-fanciers unite in Dublin (8.00pm)

- 8.00 [CHOICE] Short Stories: Sheriff Street Kids. (Teletext) (1222)
8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (8947)
9.00 Plant Life. The seventh of eight programmes examines how plants can be manipulated to yield bigger crops. (Teletext) (8593)
9.30 Cheers. Frazier proposes to Diane who promptly telephones Sam (i). (Teletext) (80319)
10.00 Nurses. Black comedy set in a Miami hospital. (Teletext) (s) (2203)
10.30 Clive Anderson Talks Back. With Tony Benn, MP. Helen Mirren and Julian Clark (733338)
11.10 The Word. The guests include Les de Laria, described as the lesbian Lenny Bruce, and Sean McGuire, from the cast of Eastenders (s) (296098)
12.10am Late Licence. A preview of tonight's through-the-night programmes beginning at 11.55 (805549)
12.20 FILM: Steele (1985) starring Keith Gordon and Amanda Plummer. Offbeat satirical comedy about a young man who claims to have invented a television that shows live coverage of heaven. Mark Romanek directs (8421075)
1.50 Late Licence begins with Ready Steady Go! (b/w) featuring the Beatles and the Beach Boys, among others (8733041) 2.30 Makers. Entertainment mix (i) (2688339) 3.35 The Changers. Animation (i) (7037498) 3.45 Red Hot and Blue. Highlights of a 1990 concert recreating the music of Cole Porter. Includes Annie Lennox, Iggy Pop, Kirsty MacColl and the Pogues (5086029). Ends at 5.10

RADIO 1

- FM Stereo and MW. 4.00am Bruno Brookes (FM only) 7.00 Mark Goodier
8.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Dave Lee Travis
12.45 Jock Macleod. 1.00am Steve Wright
In the Afternoon 6.00 News 9.30 6.30
Pete Dinklage. Essential Saturday Night
John Peel (FM only from 12.00) 1.00-4.00am Mark Goodier (FM only)

RADIO 2

- FM Stereo. 4.00am Alex Lester. 5.00 Sarah Kennedy. 6.15am Praise for Thought
7.05 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.15am Praise for Thought. 9.30am Ken Bruce. 11.30am Jimmy Young. 12.00am Gloria Hunniford. 3.30am 5.30am
Stewart. 6.00am John Dunn. 7.00am Jimmy
at the Opera. 11.00 7.30am Friday Night
is Music Night. 8.45am Simon McBurney at the
piano. 9.00am Listen to the Band. 10.00am
Radio 2 Arts Programme. 12.00am
Duffy Weather with Jazz Notes. 1.00-4.00am
John Briggs

RADIO 5

- 6.00am World Service. 6.30am Morning
News. 7.00am Saturday Morning. 7.30am
Cathryn. 8.15am 9.15am
9.30am News. 9.45am
Think About It - Infant Assemblies with the AM
Alternative. 12.30am It's My Life. by
Robert Leeson (i) 1.00am News and Sport
1.10am The Crunch. 1.20am
4.05am John Inverdale's Drive-In. 5.00am
WCR by Alan Sutherland and Stuart
Morris (5.12) 7.15am Morning Out Morn
(final part) 7.30am Ringo Starr. 7.45am
0.00am 0.00am 0.00am 0.00am
12.00-12.10am News. Sport

WORLD SERVICE

- All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC English.
4.45am News. 5.00am
6.00am News. 6.15am
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FRIDAY DECEMBER 3 1993

Uefa establishes European Cup cartel

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE chairmen of clubs in the FA Carling Premiership are due to debate cutting their number to 18, but it would be astonishing if they put the national team before their need and greed for revenue, particularly given the lead that came from Geneva yesterday.

There, reforms involving two of the three European club competitions, were announced. These will be imposed on the clubs, without consultation with anyone except the television paymasters, and will mean that, from next season, a dramatic move towards closed-shop elitism and, at the same time, more strenuous games of football for the star performers.

The European Cup will be revamped so that only the top eight clubs on computer

Changes to the European club competitions announced by Uefa are likely to make the job of the next England football manager even harder than it was for his predecessors

rankings held by Uefa, the game's ruling body in Europe, will automatically play in the new tournament. These rankings are determined by the clubs' results in Europe over the preceding five years. If a club, for example Blackburn Rovers, has no record, their status in the rankings would be determined by the average performance of English clubs in that period.

Added to these top eight would be the winners of a preliminary knockout in August involving the next 16 clubs on the computer. The eight survivors of these home and away legs would then enter the Champions League,

which will run from September to December, after which the supposed essence of tournament football, the knockout stage, will begin.

Thus a club might play 13 games, from the preliminaries to the final in May, whereas before Uefa began destroying the old European Cup that had lasted almost four decades, the limit a team could play was nine.

Add to this, the expansion to 100 entrants in the Uefa Cup, an expansion forced by the political divisions in eastern Europe that have escalated the membership to 48 countries, and the recipe of ever-more football, ever-more fodder for

the television screens, becomes overpowering.

Lennart Johansson, the Uefa president, came close to admitting in Geneva yesterday that the laws of accountability are running ahead of the spirit of play: "In such a situation, as we have today, you have to see things from a financial and a sporting point of view."

Note the priority. Johansson added that the restructuring of the European competitions has largely been brought about by television and that 90 per cent of television revenues comes to Uefa from France, Germany, Italy, Spain and England.

He hardly needed to stress that England had failed to qualify even once in all three years of the Champions League so far and Independent Television, having invested almost £7 million, had loudly complained that it

draw is often as handy as a victory.

Spectators want to see David pitted against Goliath, but the threat of Berlusconi and his colleagues pulling their mighty clubs away from Uefa to form an independent super league is forever forcing the hands of Johansson.

Yet the super league appears to be inevitable. It may ultimately not even be confined to Europe, because the new Japanese J-League, the one to which Gary Lineker is committed, will also one day make demands of its own, demands backed by the same group of powerful sponsors and television interests who are calling the tune in Europe today.

How does this impinge on the problems of a manager for England, Scotland or anywhere else? Most of the leading European clubs are now multi-national. Berlusconi

could not go on squandering money without a home team to show on Wednesday nights.

The attitude is increasingly that the big clubs, from Manchester United to AC Milan to Barcelona, have to be indemnified against failure.

Silvio Berlusconi, the president of AC Milan, and coincidentally, the head of a

television satellite concern, said a year ago: "The European Cup has become a historical anachronism. It is economically nonsense that a club such as Milan might be eliminated in the first round." No sir. It is the nature of cup sport, a game of chance, that excites, or used to excite, beyond the league, where a

Joseph left out for tour finale

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

JAMIE Joseph, the New Zealand flanker who was disciplined by his own management after stamping on England's scrum half during last Saturday's Twickenham international, has not been chosen for the final game of the tour against the Barbarians in Cardiff tomorrow.

However, Neil Gray, the All Blacks manager, specifically denied that omission formed part of Joseph's punishment for the injury he meted out to Kyran Bracken, the Bristol player who left Twickenham on crutches. "The only players not considered, both because of injury, were Marty Berry and Paul Henderson," Gray said.

One can only hope that Joseph, 25 and the holder of 13

Laurie Mains, New Zealand's coach, last summer as one of the players most in need of the sort of financial assistance the newly inaugurated All Blacks Supporters Club could give, by way of university scholarships.

Joseph's place in the back row will be taken by Blair Larsen, the North Harbour forward, who joined the party as a second-row replacement for the injured Robin Brooke. As things have turned out, Larsen will have played three games at flanker and four as a lock, with one further appearance in the second row as a replacement, which at least confirms his utility value.

The other change from the side beaten 15-9 by England is at centre where Lee Stensness replaces Eroni Clarke. It has been a desperately disappointing tour for Stensness, who arrived with a justified reputation for sparky midfield play only to damage knee ligaments on his first outing.

He missed the next three games and by the time he had recovered fitness Matthew Cooper had sealed his place in the international XV. With Cooper now also injured and Clarke out of favour, tomorrow's match will be some recompense for Stensness who, at 22, has time on his side. It is the sort of game, too, where his darting runs may prosper, if his match confidence has not suffered unduly.

The management has said all along that they regard this as a three-international tour and they will not approach the game in gala mood. "Cardiff Arms Park is regarded as one of the world's best stadiums and it will be a test-match atmosphere," Gray said.

Even so, it may be the occasion for a XV, turning on an Otago axis, to play the swift-rucking, running game with which Otago destroyed the British Isles during the summer tour.

Luyt's call for calm, page 42
Gerald Davies, page 42

TEAM

J Timu (Otago), J Wilson (Otago), F Bunces (North Harbour), L Stensness (Auckland), Tuganala (Auckland), M Ellis (Otago), S Forster (Otago), C Dowd (Auckland), S Fitzpatrick (Auckland, captain), O Brown (Auckland), S Larsen (North Harbour), J Jones (Northland), S Gordon (Waikato), Z Brooke (Auckland), A Pene (Otago). Replacements: S Howarth (Auckland), S Bachop (Otago), J Frost (Wellington), M Brewer (Otago), M Allen (Taranaki), N Hewitt (Hawke's Bay).

caps, has been warned that any repetition of such behaviour may disqualify him from future All Black tours. The value of the Otago flanker to his side, as a lineout player as well as loose forward, makes it all the more frustrating that he should choose to indulge in such play, to the extent that he was banned by the New Zealand Rugby Football Union early last year.

In the aftermath of New Zealand's defeat by England John Hart, the former All Blacks assistant coach, criticised Joseph as an example of the indiscipline play which could cost New Zealand the World Cup in 1995. Interestingly, Joseph was cited by



Dai Guohong, of China, takes in air during the butterfly leg of the 400 metres individual medley at the inaugural world short-course championships in Palma yesterday. In winning the gold medal, Guohong knocked two seconds off the world record. China's women swimmers broke three world records on the opening day. Report, page 44

Faldo hits hot streak in Sun City

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

NICK Faldo and Nick Price, who were disqualified from the event last year, Faldo for signing for an incorrect score and Price for moving an advertising hoarding, both scored 67 yesterday in the first round of the Million Dollar Challenge at Sun City to open up a four-stroke lead in the race for golf's biggest winner's cheque.

This time controversy centred on the defending champion, David Frost, who was penalised two strokes following an incident on the 10th green. The ball moved as Frost addressed an eight-inch

putt for his par five, which brought him a one-shot penalty. Then, by not placing the ball back in its original position, he incurred another. What would have been a 69 became a 71.

"It was not even a millimetre that it moved, but I called it on myself," said Frost, who admitted that neither he nor his playing partner, Bernhard Langer, knew about the replacement rule, described as "one of the cruelest in the game" by a tournament official, Dennis Bryans.

Jan Woosnam's chances of landing the jackpot for the second time are already look-

ing slim. Even though his card included an eagle, at the ninth, the Welshman could manage no better than a 76.

Faldo, "gently cooking" as the temperature soared, began birdie-eagle and had to finish birdie-birdie to stay on terms with Price, his playing partner, who finished leading money-winner on the US Tour this season. "The way Nick started got me going and we just fed off each other. I like playing with him because he's the most complete player I've seen in my life," Price said.

Faldo, who said he was so affected by the heat that he was drinking at least one

bottle of water at every hole, hit an eight-iron to within three feet at the 1st before reaching the 630-yard 2nd with a driver and a three-wood then holing from 20 feet.

Price eagled the 599-yard ninth to draw level, both birdied the tenth and then, after Britain's world No 1 had dropped another stroke at the 15th, Price chipped in at the 17th. Faldo had to hole from eight feet for a matching birdie three and he signed off in style with a 12-footer.

FIRST-ROUND SCORES: 67: N Price (2m), N Faldo (GB), 71: M McHenry (2m), C Owen (US), D Frost (SA), 72: F Allen (SA), S Langer (GER), 74: M Woosnam (US), 75: P Stewart (GB), 76: J Jansen (US), 1 Woosnam (GB), E Els (SA).

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 29

ACROSS

- 7 Thrust (4)
- 8 Narrowly-averted accident (4,4)
- 9 Resist (6)
- 10 Thinly distributed (6)
- 11 Sequence of written items (4)
- 12 Uncontrollable youth (8)
- 13 Chest muscle (5)
- 14 Enthusiast (4)
- 15 Nutrient in e.g. potatoes (6)
- 21 Collection of eggs (6)
- 22 Travel document (8)
- 23 Lurch wildly (4)

DOWN

- 1 Small blunt-snouted whale (8)
- 2 Written conclusion of investigation (6)
- 3 Depositor of money (8)
- 4 Musical (4)
- 5 High-jumping African antelope (6)
- 6 In its existing condition (2,2)
- 7 Assign (8)
- 8 Made a difference (8)
- 9 Songbird; infection (6)
- 10 Skin discoloration (6)
- 11 Relenting of ice (4)
- 20 Barrie's pirate captain (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 28

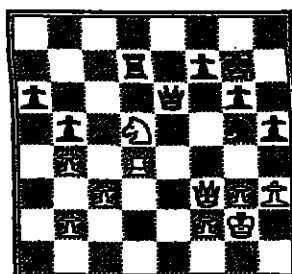
- ACROSS: 1 Chased 5 Forage 8 Prop 9 Scaffold 10 Filter 12 Eddy 15 Tortoiseshell 16 Term 17 Derive 19 Arboreal 21 Acre 22 Appeal 23 Malady
- DOWN: 2 Herbivore 3 Sap 4 Distrain 5 Fear 6 Refresh 7 Gel 11 Totem pole 13 Delivered 14 Pendulum 18 Fell 20 Rip 21 All

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Kasparov - Short, Speed Chess 1993. White is a pawn up, but his knight, queen and h-pawn are all threatened. How did Kasparov keep the situation under control? The book of The Times World Chess Championship is available at £7.99 from The Times Office, PO Box 11, Tadcaster, N Yorks LS24 9XA.

Solution, page 42



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- ACETABULUM
a. A table of hors d'oeuvres
b. The Macedonian cavalry breastplate
c. A cuttlefish's sucker
BOOSE
a. A cattle stall
b. Not daring to say boo to a goose
c. Loot or pillage

- VERRUCOSE
a. Covered with warts
b. A peptic ulcer
c. Spear-shaped
YARBOROUGH
a. A rotten borough
b. A lady's riding-boot
c. A rotten hand at cards

Answers on page 42

*"The secret to a long life
is to stay busy,
get plenty of exercise and
don't drink too much.
Then again, don't drink
too little."*

BERNARD F. QUIGLEY,
103-YEAR-OLD CALIFORNIAN.INTRODUCE SOME CALIFORNIAN INTO
THE CONVERSATION.

E&J

SINGLE CASK MATURED BRANDY.